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NOTHING ODD ABOUT PAYING SENATOR'S LEGAL FEES, SAYS HARPER PAGE 9

Men offer up guilty pleas in pimping case

Police say underage girls had fled group home and were taken to Toronto to be prostituted PAGE 4

Oilers up first as Leafs blow westward

Toronto goes up against the downtrodden Oilers to kick off their western road trip HEAD TO METRONEWS.CA

Arcade Fire-d up after Haiti beat down

Getting upstaged in the Caribbean put Arcade Fire in an ambitious mood for their new album, Reflektor PAGE 22

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Public housing's repair backlog to top $2.6B by 2023

Solution in the works. A 10-year plan would dedicate $864M, have province, feds chip in

Only getting worse

"We're talking about kitchens and bathrooms that are falling apart ... children's bedrooms where they can't sleep because of the mould."

Coun. Pam McConnell

The long-standing backlog of repairs to Toronto's aging public housing has ballooned to more than $860 million and could triple in 10 years.

But it could be solved for good if the city, Queen's Park and Ottawa sign on to a bold 10-year plan to tackle the problem together, says a staff report to the city's executive committee.

The first-ever long-term capital financing plan for Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) recommends the city pick up a third of the $2.6-billion anticipated bill, or $864 million, and calls on Ottawa and Queen's Park to split the rest.

The plan — which would replace many dilapidated kitchens and bathrooms, update heating and electrical systems and repair crumbling balconies and parking garages — will be debated on Wednesday.

"This is about putting apartments back to a place in which families are happy to have their friends over and they aren't embarrassed by the accommodations they are living in," said Coun. Pam McConnell, whose ward includes many public-housing buildings.

If approved, the plan assumes the city and TCHC will be able to cover capital needs for the company's 58,500 units on their own after 10 years.

The city's share includes $50 million a year from TCHC's operating budget, or $545 million over 10 years, when adjusted for inflation. The plan proposes raising the remaining funds through mortgage refinancing, property tax exemptions, development charges and the sale of some TCHC homes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM

DeMar DeRozan, one of the longest-serving Toronto Raptors, now has lots more on his mind than just basketball. He recently had a baby girl, Diar, with his fiancée Kiara, pictured here in the family's Toronto home on Monday. The Raptors' home-opener is on Wednesday, and DeRozan has high hopes for himself and the team this season. See story, page 30. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Suicide note found

Elderly couple plunge to death

An elderly couple fell to their deaths from the balcony of their 18th-floor penthouse apartment in Etobicoke Tuesday morning, in what police are treating as a double suicide.

Neighbours identified the married couple as Vladimir Fiser and Marika Ferber. They said the pair suffered from health issues, particularly Ferber, whom they described as having bouts of chronic pain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2007 stabbing death

Case of mistaken identity argued in Kish appeal

Which woman was holding the knife?

Was it Nicole Kish, a panhandler convicted of second-degree murder in the Toronto stabbing of a St. Catharines man? Or was it her friend Faith Watts, who was also present at the scene? That's the question at the heart of Kish's appeal of her conviction, lawyer Philip Campbell told the Ontario Court of Appeal Tuesday.

Nicole Kish
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Campbell said Kish, now 27, could have been confused for the similar-looking Watts in the chaotic 2007 street brawl that resulted in the death of Ross Hammond.

Kish is currently serving a life sentence with no parole eligibility for 12 years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

So a movie director and a Mugwump walk into a bar ...

Canadian director David Cronenberg sits at the bar from his movie Naked Lunch with a prop of a Mugwump that was used in the film. Cronenberg toured the new David Cronenberg: Evolution exhibit at TIFF Bell Lightbox on Tuesday. The exhibit is a collection of props, memorabilia and video clips from his large collection of films.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Affordable waterfront housing a bad idea: Ford

Pilot-project proposal. City bylaw already requires making 20 per cent of area's new housing affordable

Not here

"You don't use your waterfront for affordable housing, that's the first thing." Mayor Rob Ford

Mayor Rob Ford says a city proposal to build between 70 and 75 affordable rental units in a waterfront condominium building is a waste of valuable real estate.

"You don't use your waterfront for affordable housing, that's the first thing," Ford told reporters Tuesday.

"But then again, you get the province and the feds to give us money for affordable housing, which we need, and put it somewhere else," he said.

"Where that other location will be, we're not quite sure. But it shouldn't be on the waterfront. That's my position on it now, so I'm sort of torn on this one," he added.

City staff are proposing an innovative pilot project to incorporate affordable rental housing within a condominium building in the recently announced $1.1-billion Bayside neighbourhood development, east of Sherbourne Common and George Brown College.

The proposal is in keeping with the city's Central Waterfront Secondary Plan, which stipulates that 20 per cent of all new housing in the East Bayfront area must be affordable.

"We have to start seeing condominiums as the neighbourhood itself," said Coun. Ana Bailao, chair of the city's affordable-housing committee, which unanimously approved the proposal Tuesday. "They are vertical neighbourhoods, and that is how we have to start planning."

Area Coun. Pam McConnell said Ford and some councillors have misunderstood the proposal. "This is all over talk radio, and even some councillors have come to me today saying they can't support buying waterfront condos for the poor," she said. "But they've got it all wrong."

McConnell, who has been involved in negotiations with developers Hines and Tridel, said the city is simply moving about 75 units of its already-approved affordable housing from a site on the east side of the Bayside neighbourhood and integrating them into a west-side site. The block of affordable units will operate as a permanent, independent non-profit company inside a building that will also house condominium units, she explained.

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Five hospitals splitting $50 million gift

Legendary Canadian rocker Tom Cochrane, left, congratulates philanthropist Gary Slaight, who announced a $50-million gift to five Toronto hospitals on Tuesday. The Slaight Family Foundation's donation will support projects that include new emergency services, MRI technology, mental-health treatment and maternity care.

SANDLER/CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY/FOR METRO

Guilty pleas in teen prostitution case

Project Roxy. Two men were charged after girls fled group home and became embroiled in Toronto ring

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Two men pleaded guilty to a pimping-related charge this month, concluding Toronto police's "Project Roxy" investigation into a prostitution ring involving girls who had gone missing from a group home.

Anthony Merchan and Alberto Enrique Vazquez pleaded guilty to two counts of procuring a person to become a prostitute on Oct. 16. Police had initially charged the men with human trafficking and other pimping charges.

Similar charges were dropped against another man and a 16-year-old girl who resided in the same group home as the victims.

Two girls, aged 14 and 15, were taken to Toronto and prostituted after they had run away from their group home at the urging of the fellow 16-year-old resident, police had alleged.

Det. Mark Benallick said he was satisfied with the outcome of the complex investigation.

"Ultimately, in the end, the victims are safe from what they were involved in and seem to be moving forward in their lives in a positive way," said Benallick.

Merchan had claimed not to know the victims in an interview shortly after his arrest.

A spokesperson for the minister of children and youth services said in an email that the ministry takes this matter very seriously:

"No child should have to go through this.

"In this case, the ministry has undertaken a full licensing review of the (group) home and imposed terms and conditions such as enhancing safety measures, improving staff training and reducing the number of youth residents under the licence to improve the overall quality and security in the home. While these steps will help improve protection of the youth, the ministry continues to monitor the residence for any further enhancements that may be needed."

Quoted

"Ultimately, in the end, the victims are safe from what they were involved in and seem to be moving forward in their lives in a positive way." Det. Mark Benallick

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Stripes, the lesser-known replacement Raptor

The Toronto Raptors mascot, The Raptor, helps his replacement, Stripes the Raptor, at Air Canada Centre on Tuesday. The Raptor has been the mascot since Day One of the franchise, but he tore his Achilles tendon during the preseason in Halifax and will be out for the entire season. The Raptor wears the number 95, representing the Raptors' first season, Stripes will wear a 13 on the front and a 14 on the back representing the 2013-14 season. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Karen Stintz wants Josh Colle to be new head of TTC

2014 vote. Councillor stepping down to avoid suggestion that she is using her position to give her an advantage in mayoral race

Karen Stintz TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayoral contender Karen Stintz has confirmed she'll step down as chair of the Toronto Transit Commission as soon as the 2014 budget is finalized by council in January or February.

She said the decision is an attempt to avoid controversy.

"I don't want anyone to suggest I'm trying to use the TTC as a platform (for the mayor's race)," Stintz told Torstar News Service on Tuesday.

The councillor for Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence says she would like her ward mate, Coun. Josh Colle (Ward 15) to take over as TTC chair. She cited his experience on the TTC board and his career working in the transportation sector prior to being elected three years ago.

It is up to city council to decide who chairs the TTC, but Stintz said she expects Colle will have the confidence of his colleagues there.

Stintz, who ended months of speculation by formally declaring her intention to run for mayor on the weekend, said she wants to shepherd the 2014 transit budget through to the end of the council approval process that could take until February.

She and TTC CEO Andy Byford are arguing for an increase in the TTC's operating subsidy from the city. Stintz says she's looking at a formula that would bring the subsidy into the range of $440 million from the $411 million level it has been given the last two years.

Under the proposed formula there would be a predictable fare increase but it would be held to the rate of inflation, about five cents, she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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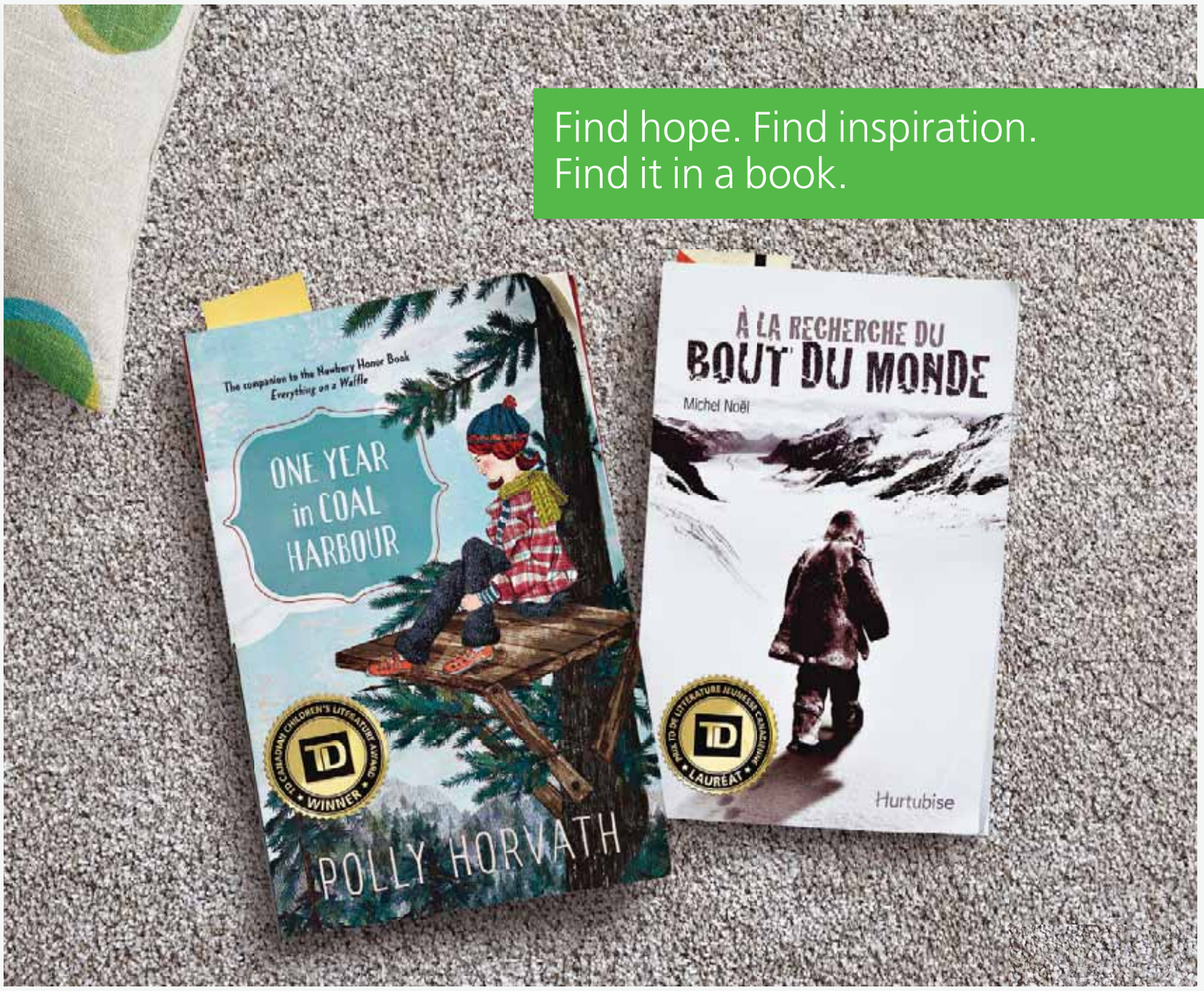

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Drug firm's CEO in trouble again after police sweep

Crime. Adam Wookey among five men facing a slew of charges after cops seize illicit drugs worth seven figures

JESSICA SMITH
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Toronto police have charged five men with 59 drug-related offences and seized more than 50 kilograms of drugs with a street value of almost $2 million, the drug squad announced Tuesday.

One of the accused is Adam Wookey, 29. Police confirmed he is the CEO of The Izms, a company that sells what it describes as "legal" drugs, or drug alternatives. The Izms is an herb laced with synthetic cannabinoids that users smoke to get high.

Wookey was charged with two counts each of possession for the purpose of trafficking marijuana and MDMA, and two counts of possession of proceeds of crime. A police spokesperson said the recent arrests had nothing to do with The Izms.

Wookey and the four other suspects were arrested overnight Monday, as drug-squad officers executed search warrants at six locations in Toronto and York Region "in connection with a two-week investigation into an alleged illegal drug distribution network," police said.

Adam Wookey, owner of The Izms, a company distributing controversial drug alternatives in Canada. ALEX CONSIGLIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

They said they seized two kilograms of cocaine, one kilogram of ketamine, 30 kilograms of marijuana, 17.5 kilograms of MDMA, 300 grams of heroin and 60 grams of crystal methamphetamine.

Gabriel Pretto-Viani, 29, and Kyle Edward-Turrell, 41, were charged with two counts each of possession for the purpose of trafficking marijuana and MDMA and two counts of possession of proceeds of crime.

Rico Batak, 25, and Mustafa Farouk, 25, were charged with three counts each of possession for the purpose of trafficking marijuana and MDMA and two counts each of possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, ketamine, heroin and crystal methamphetamine, as well as five counts of possession of proceeds of crime.

Follow Jessica Smith on Twitter @jessiecatherine

Wookey's history

This is not Adam Wookey's first arrest. He was arrested and charged with trafficking in March following a Hamilton police investigation into The Izms, but the charges were later stayed. He also pleaded guilty to gun possession and drug-trafficking offences committed shortly after he turned 18.

- In an interview with Metro this spring after his arrest in the Hamilton police investigation, Wookey said he's seen the toll the illegal drug trade takes on young people and one of the reasons he set up The Izms was to offer a legal alternative.
- He argued it's harder for teens to get alcohol from liquor stores than drugs from their friends, which creates a culture that encourages the use of drugs and offers a tempting economic incentive for teens to deal drugs. That's why he said he wants to see "drug alternatives" like the ones he sells regulated and sold in stores, instead of being outlawed and made part of the illegal drug culture.

Movies and TV on-the-go as easy as 1, 2, 3

With video stores out of the picture, Torontonians have been left with only a handful of options when it comes to fulfilling their movie-rental needs.

Now a U.S.-based digital retail download service, Digiboo, is offering up another solution for Toronto's on-the-go movie lovers and mobile users, boasting a hassle-free approach that lets users rent or buy a film by downloading digital copies onto their mobile devices without making a dent on their data plan.

The company, which has about 100 download terminals in the U.S., is officially launching in Canada Wednesday, bringing 30 kiosks scattered across the city to test-drive its new market before expanding into other cities.

How it works

- The concept is simple: Users can go to any of the kiosks located at Gateway Newsstands and Hasty Market to browse through a selection of 500 movies and 200 TV episodes, put in their credit card, and download the locally stored movie onto a USB 3.0 device within 30 seconds, or through a WiFi connection directly onto their smartphone or tablet in minutes.
- Users can either buy a digital copy of the film for roughly $15.99 or rent a new movie for about $4.99 to watch within 30 days, with 48 hours to watch once activated.

Digiboo is just one of many companies like Redbox, Netflix and iTunes that have been trying to take advantage of the underserved Canadian market in recent years. But the growth of this digital market has been slow compared to the U.S., said Digiboo's chief marketing officer Blake Thomas.

"The rental market in Canada is robust," said Thomas. "The rise of retail kiosks to serve the appetites of movie lovers in Canada has not happened as quickly, though. We think there's a very big opportunity because Canadians love movies just like everyone all over the world and there just seems to be a particular market opportunity in Canada right now."

Thomas also said Digiboo has an advantage since users don't have to worry about having a good Internet connection, using up bandwidth or returning a physical DVD.

"ITunes is a really good service. The problem is if you're on-the-go and you want to watch a movie on an airplane or whatever, you have to remember to do it the night before and set it up for download," he said, adding that Netflix and other video-streaming services require a consistent Internet connection, which could be an issue for users who are out and about. "What we're trying to do is to create an impulse purchase — you get a magazine, bottle of water and a movie on your way somewhere."

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

Kiosks like this one will be selling movies on-the-go in 30 locations across the city starting Wednesday. PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

It's not unusual: PM says paying Duffy's legal fees was no big deal

You'll find it happens all the time. Yet Wallin, Brazeau say nobody offered to help them with their expenses

Stephen Harper sees nothing wrong with the Conservative party using taxpayer-subsidized funds to pay disgraced Sen. Mike Duffy's legal expenses, insisting Tuesday there's nothing unusual about it.

"The party regularly reimburses members of its caucus for valid legal expenses, as do other parties," Harper told the House of Commons.

However, it seems the Conservative party didn't extend its largesse to all other senators accused of improperly claiming travel expenses or housing allowances.

Sen. Patrick Brazeau's office said no offer was made to pay his legal expenses. Terrence O'Sullivan, Sen. Pamela Wallin's lawyer, said the same.

"Sen. Wallin has received no assistance with her legal fees — whether before or after she recused herself from the caucus — from the Conservative party or anyone associated with the Conservative party," O'Sullivan said in an email.

All three are under investigation by the RCMP and are facing a government bid to suspend them from the Senate.

The suspension motions were tied in procedural knots Tuesday, making it unlikely they will be voted on before the Conservatives gather Thursday evening for a two-day national convention in Calgary.

Duffy disclosed Monday there were two cheques regarding his allegedly improper expenses: one for $13,560 from Conservative party lawyer Arthur Hamilton to cover his legal expenses, plus the $90,000 from Harper's former chief of staff, Nigel Wright, to enable him to reimburse the Senate.

Harper was grilled repeatedly Tuesday about Duffy's latest bombshell, shrugging off suggestions that Hamilton did anything wrong.

"This individual is not accused of anything," he said in response to a question from NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, who asked whether the prime minister intends to fire Hamilton.

"New Democrats tell us that we should fire or expel people on the flimsiest of allegations without, in some cases, any proof of anything against anybody," Harper said.

"Then when we determine that actions should be taken (against the three senators), the leader of the Opposition stands up and pretends these people are somehow victims of arbitrary actions."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper answers a question in the House of Commons in Ottawa on Tuesday.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coffee, tea, BTC?

What is being billed as the world's first Bitcoin ATM is seen at a coffee shop in downtown Vancouver. The machine, which was to be unveiled on Tuesday, will allow consumers to exchange cash for the digital currency known as Bitcoins, commonly abbreviated to BTC. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staterooms. Canada using its foreign embassies for surveillance ops: Report

The national eavesdropping agency is refusing to comment on allegations that it mounts foreign operations through Canada's embassies abroad.

Lauri Sullivan, a spokeswoman for Communications Security Establishment Canada, says the agency does not comment "on our foreign intelligence collection activities or capabilities."

German magazine Der Spiegel says Canada is using diplomatic facilities to support surveillance operations in league with key allies the United States, Britain and Australia.

Word of the Canadian reference came as the NDP unsuccessfully sought support in the House of Commons to create a parliamentary committee that would look into stronger oversight for the intelligence community.

The magazine report published this week cites presentation slides leaked by Edward Snowden, a former contractor with the National Security Agency, CSEC's American counterpart.

One slide indicates the Canadian spy agency hosts "Stateroom" sites — a term for covert signals-intelligence gathering bases hidden in consulates and embassies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Damages. Trucking firm told to pay $150M to girl who watched family die

A jury has determined a trucking company and one of its drivers should pay $150 million in damages to a 13-year-old girl who watched her family burn to death in a fiery crash on a Southern California freeway nearly four years ago.

The verdict was reached Friday after three days of deliberations that found truck driver Rudolph Ortiz was negligent for parking on the side of the freeway in the early-morning darkness without leaving on any light or emergency reflector. Ortiz and his employer, Bhandal Bros. Trucking, were found jointly liable.

Kylie Asam was nine when she and her 11-year-old brother, Blaine, managed to escape from their family's mangled SUV after it struck and got caught under a rig parked on the shoulder of Interstate 210. They saw their parents and older brother get burned alive after the vehicle caught fire.

The verdict included $8.75 million the jury awarded to Blaine, who committed suicide before the trial began.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

University of B.C.

RCMP suspect same man for 6 sex attacks

Another sex attack at the University of British Columbia has RCMP announcing they believe the same man is responsible for six attacks, three more than previously reported.

The most recent attack was reported to police on Sunday.

"A young woman indicated that she was walking alone … shortly before 1:30 in the morning when she noticed a shadow behind her," Sgt. Peter Thiessen said. "She was grabbed from behind and she began to flail her arms, causing the suspect to run away."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'A period of transition'

300 more laid off at BlackBerry HQ

Another round of layoffs at BlackBerry's headquarters in Waterloo, Ont., will trim its staff by 300 employees.

The smartphone maker said Tuesday the latest job cuts are included in an announcement from September when the company pledged to reduce its workforce by 40 per cent, or about 4,500 people.

"We are in a period of transition and we must focus on enhancing our financial results to be in a better position to compete in this current mobile environment," company spokeswoman Rebecca Freiburger said in an email. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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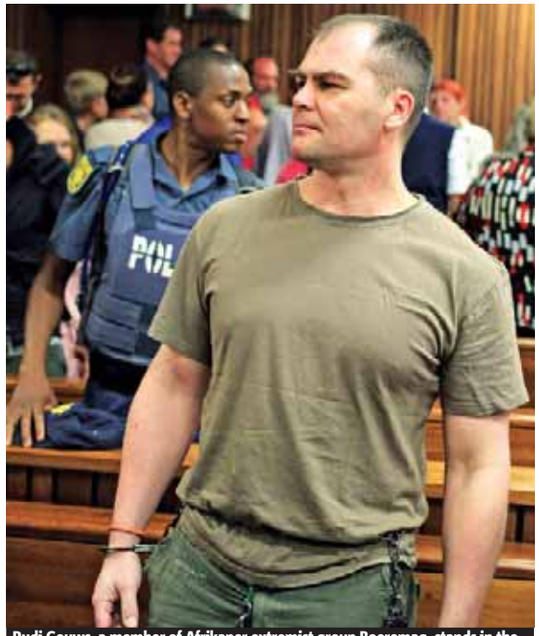
White extremists sentenced after decade-long trial

South Africa. Members of Boeremag group given 5 to 35 years for plot to overthrow government, kill Nelson Mandela



Rudi Gouws, a member of Afrikaner extremist group Boeremag, stands in the dock before sentencing proceedings at the High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday. A South Africa court handed members of the white extremist group sentences ranging from five to 35 years in prison for various charges including high treason and murder in the country's first post-apartheid treason trial.

THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White extremists who set off a series of bombs, plotted to overthrow the South African government and kill Nelson Mandela were given jail terms Tuesday, ending the first major treason trial under post-apartheid laws that many hope will deter future radicals.

The sentences for up to 20 defendants between the ages of 32 and 74 ranged from five years to 35 years. Some will be released on suspended sentences, while the leaders will serve the longest terms.

Members of the Afrikaner extremist group Boeremag, or white farmer force, last year were convicted of treason for a plot, in the late 1990s and early 2000, to violently overthrow South Africa's government. The African National Congress formed the country's government when Mandela was elected to office in 1994.

Some members were also convicted of culpable homicide and conspiring to murder for a thwarted plan to kill Mandela. The group claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that killed a woman and caused damage throughout the Johannesburg township of Soweto in 2002.

Judge Eben Jordaan handed out the sentences in Pretoria to end the decade-long trial that has cost the country millions. Most sentences were suspended by 10 years and due to time served since around 2002, nine of the defendants will go home tomorrow, said National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Medupe Simasiku.

"For those that are going free, it's not really freedom because they will serve their sentences at home," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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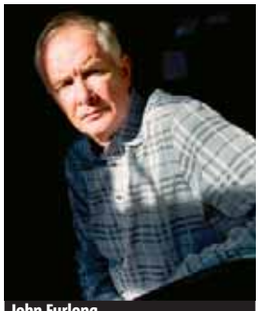
John Furlong goes on media blitz to try and clear his name

'Pivotal moment.'
Olympics organizer goes on offensive against journalist, whose lawyer insists RCMP are still investigating

The man who organized the Vancouver Olympics is seizing a "pivotal moment" in a sexual abuse allegation scandal and holding it out for all Canadians to see in a bid to clear his name.

But, not content with leaving the "pain and suffering" over allegations that he vehemently denies behind him, John Furlong is firing back with an offensive of his own against what he says is one reporter's hateful "campaign."



John Furlong
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The sex abuse allegations surfaced following a newspaper article by freelance journalist Laura Robinson. It suggested Furlong physically and verbally abused First Nations students at Burns Lake, B.C., while teaching at a Catholic school there in the late 1960s.

"The RCMP cleared my name, so this was a pivotal moment for me."

But the RCMP has said its file "remains open," though a spokesman declined to comment further because civil actions are underway.

Furlong said he has "no idea" why the case is still open.

A lawyer for Robinson said it means Furlong's name isn't as clear as he thinks.

"It appears that there's an open file of some sort and (the RCMP have) not completed their investigation," Bryan Baynham said, adding that this is a "non-story about one interchange with the RCMP."

"There's nothing newsworthy about this other than Mr. Furlong wanting to have a hook to mount an attack against my client."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hope once again for Lessya

Lessya Kotelevskaya, 30, attends a news conference Tuesday in Louisville, Ky., where her surgeon discussed upcoming surgeries to undo disfiguring damage done to her face by radiation meant to treat a cancer she didn't have. While living in Kazakhstan, Kotelevskaya was accidentally hit in the face at a sporting event. When her jaw began to swell days later, she visited a doctor, who told her she had terminal cancer in her jawbone. Years later she was shocked when a doctor told her she didn't have cancer, and never did. BRUCE SCHREINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Stand your ground' law

Trayvon Martin's mother speaks to polarized senators

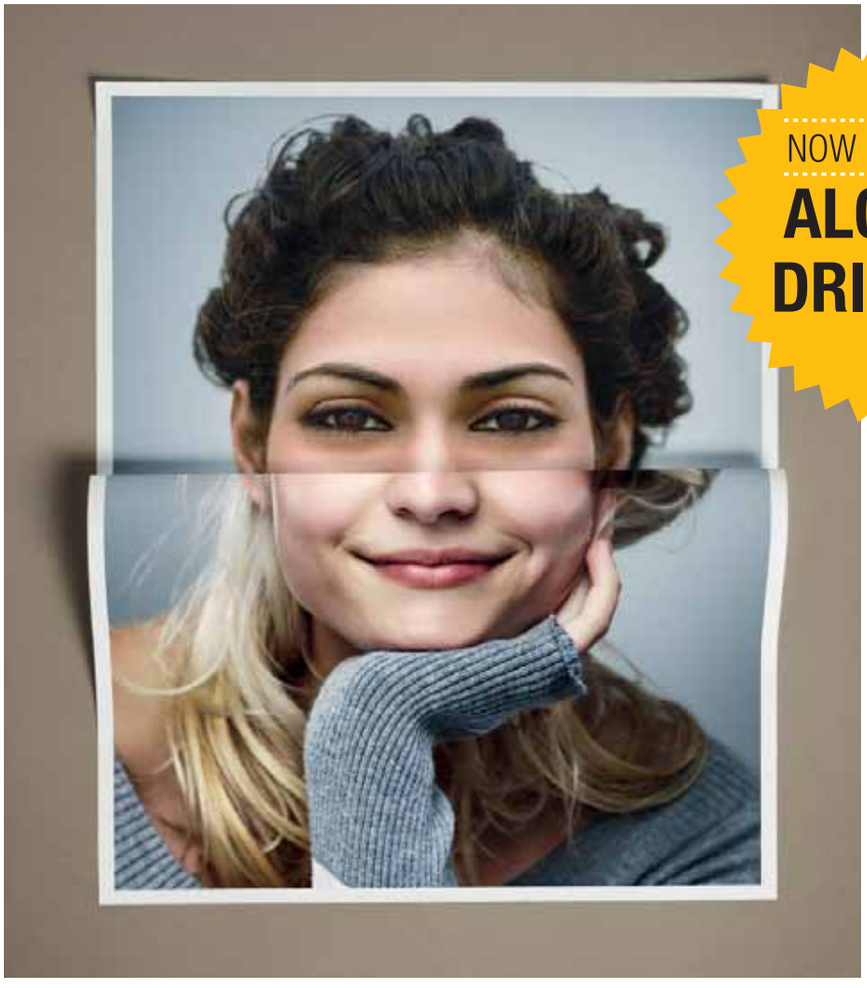
The mother of a 17-year-old boy shot by a suspicious neighbour told a panel of U.S. senators Tuesday that state "stand your ground" self-defence laws do not work and must be amended, reviving the politically charged gun-control issue a year ahead of the 2014 midterm elections.

But little besides politics emerged from the session, held in the Senate's made-for-television hearing room. Democrats who hold majority power in the Senate and are trying to keep it supported the call by Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin.

"This law is an invitation for confrontation," said Sen. Dick Durbin, a Democrat who chaired the session.

Republicans, led by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a possible 2016 presidential candidate, said the matter should be left to the states that passed the laws.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Bolshoi ballet dancer pleads not guilty

Acid attack on ballet chief. Trial into the attack has exposed a fierce power struggle at the Russian theatre

A Bolshoi ballet dancer who is accused of ordering an acid attack on the ballet chief pleaded not guilty Tuesday as his trial began in Moscow.

Dancer Pavel Dmitrichenko is suspected of ordering the Jan. 17 attack on ballet artistic director Sergei Filin, which left Filin with severe burns to his face and his eyes, impairing his vision.

Two other men on trial with the ballet dancer are Yuri Zarutsky, the suspected attacker, and Andrei Lipatov, the driver who allegedly took Zarutsky to the crime scene.

In his court testimony Tuesday, Dmitrichenko contested prosecutors' allegations that he colluded with Zarutsky, an ex-convict, to attack the artistic director.

Zarutsky was planning to send his daughter to a ballet school and was asking for his advice, the ballet dancer said, explaining how Zarutsky found out who Filin was.

"I had no animosity toward Filin," Dmitrichenko said. "Zarutsky committed the crime on his own."

Dmitrichenko told the court that he did tell Zarutsky that he disapproved of Filin's management style. But he insisted that he always spoke highly of Filin, a former ballet star, as an excellent dancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bolshoi ballet dancer Pavel Dmitrichenko stands in a cage in a Russian courtroom last week. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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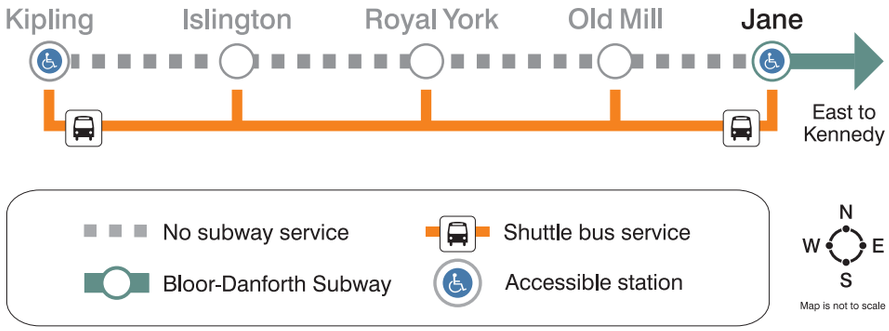

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Costa Concordia trial. Woman on bridge testifies she was captain's lover

A Moldovan dancer who had been on the bridge of the Costa Concordia cruise ship when it crashed into a reef off Italy electrified the captain's manslaughter trial Tuesday by testifying reluctantly that the two were lovers.

Domnica Cemortan, 26, only made the admission after being warned by the judge that she risked criminal charges if she didn't answer the question.

The ship's former captain, Francesco Schettino, is the sole defendant on trial in the Tuscan town of Grosseto.

Testifying through a translator, Cemortan said she had worked on the Concordia for three weeks in December 2011. She then re-boarded the ship in January 2012 as a non-paying passenger several hours before the crash.

Cemortan said she had dined at the captain's table and they both were on the bridge at the time of the crash. After it, Cemortan testified that she dashed into Schettino's private cabin to change out of her dinner outfit into more practical clothes. She noticed his laptop in the room and took it because she thought it was important. She said she gave it to him when she saw him on Giglio before dawn, after they both had taken separate lifeboats to the island.

Cemortan is among those seeking damages from the captain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Domnica Cemortan, who was on the bridge of the Costa Concordia when it crashed into a reef, leaves after testifying at the trial of Captain Francesco Schettino in Italy, Tuesday. The Moldovan dancer testified she was Schettino's lover. GIACOMO APRILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Candy-for-cash project

Ontario dentist fights Halloween tooth horrors

A dentist in Georgetown, Ont., is fighting off "scary" tooth decay by offering money to trick-or-treaters in exchange for their Halloween candy.

Kids can swap their unopened candy with dentist Corey Grossman, who will trade $1 for every pound of candy received on Nov. 1.

They will also get toothbrushes, dental floss and dental-care packages in exchange for the sweets.

Grossman says there is nothing wrong with indulging in some candy, as long as it's backed up with proper brushing and flossing. "For the kids the money is a little bit of an inspiration, but they are like, 'do I have to give all my candy?'" he said, laughing.

All the candy collected will be given to a local shelter along with a cash donation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

47 jobs affected: Firm

U.S. Steel shutting some operations at Hamilton plant

U.S. Steel Corp. is shutting down its idled iron and steelmaking operations in Hamilton, Ont., and cutting 47 jobs, the company said Tuesday.

Spokeswoman Sarah Cassella said its Hamilton Works plant was idled in late 2010, with the majority of the workers reassigned to other parts of the company's operations. U.S. Steel currently employs more than 800 people at the complex. It said it will take a non-cash charge in its fourth quarter of $225 million US related to the decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jazz hands! (If they're still attached)

Ryan Ward (who reprises his role as Ash), and Laura Tremblay prepare for a "cut-up" scene in Evil Dead — The Musical. Since announcing its return to Toronto, the original block of shows sold out and it's been extended to Dec. 22. The new production is being staged at the newly renovated Gothic-style Randolph Theatre. DAVID HOU/FOR METRO

Nothing scarier than dogs in bootie shorts

Halloween. Retailers cashing in on growing trend of suiting up Fido and Rover

Ella as Bret Michaels for Halloween. CONTRIBUTED

Jennifer Laur is going to dress up her six-year-old Ella as '80s hair-band rocker Bret Michaels for Halloween this year.

Her eight-month-old Kyuss is ready to sniff out treats in a devil costume, complete with horns and a red cape.

Both will be kept on a tight leash, of course, on the spookiest night of the year. But these aren't everyday trick-or-treaters.

"My fur babies absolutely love to get dressed up," says Laur, the self-professed "mother" of four dogs, including Cairn terrier Ella and Rottweiler Kyuss. "They prance around, wiggle their tails and show off when we put them in costume," she says, adding they know dress-up usually signals a nice walk plus more attention from mom.

Halloween is a bonanza for retailers, who put it just behind the Christmas and back-to-school seasons in overall sales. And some are cashing in on the growing trend of suiting up Fido and Rover in everything from superhero to rock-star.

Many specialized party and costume stores now carry dog costumes, and big-box retailers such as Walmart, Target, Michaels and Winners offer a wide selection from Dracula to Darth Vader, Elvis to Superman. Pet lovers can get everything from a glammed-up "Pup-a-Razzi" costume down to a "barely there" male stripper outfit. Even Poison front man Bret Michaels has his paws on Halloween, having just started the Pets Rock gear line — which includes his signature bandanas plus bootie shorts and corsets for canine "groupies" — in PetSmart stores.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier cans sales of craft beer and local wines in convenience stores

Ontario's Liberal government has no plans to allow the sale of beer and wine in corner stores but will broaden their availability through speciality outlets, Premier Kathleen Wynne confirmed Tuesday.

"We have a terrific distribution network and we're going to continue to work with the LCBO to increase that distribution network," Wynne said.

The Ontario Convenience Stores Association — which includes Avondale, 7-11 and Mac's as well as Petro-Canada, Imperial Oil and Canadian Tire — wants the law changed so they can sell local wines and craft beers. Selling beer and wine in corner stores was an idea first proposed by former Liberal premier David Peterson in the 1980s, something his government never followed through on.

The government wants to expand the availability of Ontario beers and VQA wines in specialty stores, and will set up LCBO outlets in 10 grocery stores as a pilot project, but won't allow alcohol sales in corner stores, said Finance Minister Charles Sousa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

White paper

The Progressive Conservatives have released a white paper calling for the expansion of beer and wine sales to privately owned retail outlets. But the New Democrats say they support the government's position.

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Village leader Alexander Koropov points at rubble and garbage near a quarry close to Akhshtyr village in Sochi, Russia. The landfill outside Sochi, which will soon host the Olympics, is in the middle of a water protection zone where dumping industrial waste is forbidden DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Illegal’ landfill in Sochi violates zero-waste pledge

Winter Olympics. Environmentalists claim ‘unauthorized’ waste site could taint city’s water supply

Trucks rumble to the edge of a gigantic pit filled with spray cans, tires and foam sheets and dump a stream of concrete slabs that send up a cloud of limestone dust. Other trucks pile clay on top and a bulldozer mixes everything together in a rudimentary effort to hide the mess. This landfill outside Sochi, which will host the Winter Olympics in 100 days, is smack in the middle of a water protection zone where dumping industrial waste is banned.

As a centrepiece of its Olympic bid, Russia trumpeted a “Zero Waste” program that promised the cleanest games ever, saying it would refrain from dumping construction waste and rely on reusable materials. But on a visit last week to Akhshtyr, just north of Sochi, The Associated Press found that Russia’s state-owned rail monopoly is dumping tons of construction waste into what authorities call an illegal landfill, raising concerns of possible contamination in the water that directly supplies Sochi.

Protected area

“Water from here will be contaminating Sochi’s fresh water springs for the next 10 to 15 years.”

Vladimir Kimaev, member of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus

The finding shows how little Russia has done to fulfil its ambitious green pledges. Its $51 billion budget for the Olympics contains no provisions for treating construction waste.

In a letter obtained by the AP, the Environmental Protection Agency in the area where Sochi is located told the Black Sea resort’s environment council in late August that it had inspected the Akhshtyr landfill and found “unauthorized dumping of construction waste as well as soil from excavation works.” The agency said it fined Russian Railways, whose Sochi project costs billions of dollars, $3,000 for the dumping. It didn’t order the dump closed.

The EPA’s Sochi representative visited the site earlier this month and insisted it was being cleaned up, villagers and activists who were present at that meeting said. The agency was unavailable for comment this week.

The main health concern surrounding the landfill is to the water supply.

Authorities confirm that Russian Railways operates the Akhshtyr dump without a licence — but it wouldn’t be able to obtain one even if it tried. That’s because the village lies in an area where dumping construction waste and soil is forbidden under the Russian Water Code. Moisture from the landfill seeps through porous karst rocks into underground springs that feed the nearby Mzymta River, which provides up to half the water supply in Sochi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. intelligence chief backs spying on allies

International ire. The Europeans do it too, says James Clapper

U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The top U.S. intelligence director on Tuesday defended spying on foreign allies as necessary and said such scrutiny of America's friends — and vice versa — is commonplace. Another official said the collection of phone records that prompted outrage across the Atlantic actually was conducted with the help of European governments.

Top intelligence officials testified that news reports that the National Security Agency had swept up millions of phone records in France, Spain and elsewhere were inaccurate and reflected a misunderstanding of "metadata" that was in fact collected by NATO allies and shared with the United States.

The nation's post-Sept. 11, 2001 surveillance programs are coming under increased criticism at home and abroad, capped by recent revelations that the NSA monitored German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and those of up to 34 other world leaders. Those reports relied on documents provided by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden.

Congressional leaders who have been staunch supporters of the NSA programs are now saying it is time for a close examination. The White House said Tuesday that President Barack Obama had ordered a full review of the programs and was considering changes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spy games

National Intelligence Director James Clapper played down European allies' complaints about spying on their leaders, saying the allies do it, too.

- He said during his 50 years working in intelligence it was "a basic tenet" to collect, whether by spying on communications or through other sources, confidential information about foreign leaders that reveals "if what they're saying gels with what's actually going on."
- Committee Chairman Mike Rogers asked whether allies had conducted the same type of espionage against U.S. leaders. "Absolutely," Clapper responded.

Iran. Activist actress sentenced to 18 months in jail on security charges

An Iranian court has sentenced an actress known for her reformist political activism to 18 months in prison on security charges, newspapers reported Tuesday, in another sign of the underlying tensions between Iran's hard-liners and calls for greater openness by new President Hassan Rouhani.

The reports came a day after authorities ordered the closure of the pro-reform Bahar daily in connection to a commentary it published on the Prophet Muhammad, citing a law authorizing media closures over articles deemed to violate Islamic values or insult Islam.

Iran has shown some signs of easing political restrictions since the moderate-leaning Rouhani took office in August. Dozens of prisoners held on political charges have been freed, and a prominent artistic centre known as the House of Cinema has reopened.

But the case over the 24-year-old actress, Pegah Ahangarani, shows how centres of power in Iran often work at cross-purposes.

The judiciary is controlled by the country's ruling clerics, headed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He has given the green light so far to some of Rouhani's main international initiatives, such as outreach to Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iranian actress and activist Pegah Ahangarani has been sentenced to 18 months in prison. PER HENRIKSEN/DEUTSCHE WELLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Westgate Mall attack

Soldiers dismissed for stealing

Two Kenyan soldiers were sacked for stealing items during the deadly siege last month of Nairobi's Westgate Mall, Kenya's military chief said Tuesday.

Gen. Julius Karangi, chief of Kenya's military, identified the sacked soldiers as Victor Otieno and Victor Ashiundu and said they were in detention pending formal charges.

He said the two soldiers were found with mobile phones, cameras and chargers that were stolen from the mall during the siege.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia

Arrest underlines lack of freedom

A Saudi Arabian court sentenced a prominent lawyer to three months in prison on Tuesday, a rights group said, while the same day a Saudi writer was released from jail after being investigated for blasphemy.

The two detentions point to what rights groups say is a pattern of violations against activists and writers for exercising freedom of speech. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sochi. American athletes to wear made-in-USA label at Winter Olympics

Every article of clothing made by Ralph Lauren for the U.S. Winter Olympic athletes in Sochi, Russia, including their opening- and closing-ceremony uniforms and their Olympic Village gear, has been made by American craftsman and manufacturers.

During the 2012 games in London, it was a flashpoint in the media and among Washington politicians that much of the U.S. apparel was made overseas, especially in China.

Ralph Lauren Corp., which has been making most of the athletes' clothes since 2008 when it took over from Canadian clothier Roots, got the message.

"We have worked incredibly hard as a company to go across America to find the best partners to help us produce the Olympic uniforms at the highest quality for the best athletes in the world," said David Lauren, the company's executive vice-president of advertising, marketing and corporate communications.

They used more than 40 vendors, from ranchers in the rural West to yarn spinners in Pennsylvania to sewers in New York's Garment District for the closing ceremony outfits unveiled Tuesday.

The ensemble includes a navy peacoat with a red stripe, a classic ski sweater with a reindeer motif and a hand-sewn American flag, and a tasseled chunky-knit hat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getting competitive

Google touches up Plus networking service

Google is introducing more tools to automatically edit images posted on its Plus networking service in its latest attempt to lure traffic away from Facebook and other online hangouts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sriracha lawsuit

Hot-sauce maker facing heat

The maker of Sriracha hot sauce is under fire for allegedly fouling the air around its Southern California factory.

The city of Irwindale filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court Monday asking a judge to stop production at the Huy Fong Foods factory, claiming the chili odour emanating from the plant is a public nuisance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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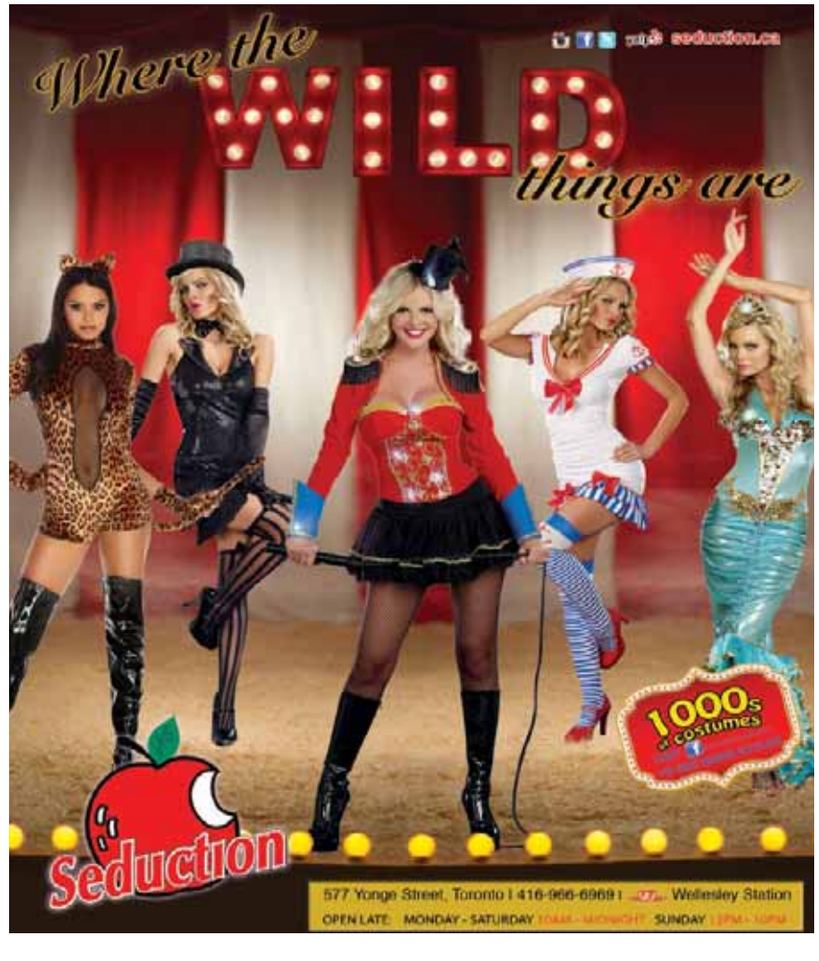
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High-end N.Y.C. stores accused of profiling

Stereotypes. Professor says arrests could be caused by skewed views

The usual scenario involves suspicious glances, inattentive clerks or rude service — not handcuffs.

Yet when a black teen said he was wrongly jailed after buying a $350 belt at a Manhattan luxury store, it struck a nerve in African-Americans accustomed to finding that their money is not necessarily as good as everyone else's. Shopping while black, they say, can be a humiliating experience.

Much attention has been paid to the issue over the years — Oprah Winfrey complained that a Swiss clerk did not think she could afford a $38,000 handbag, and even President Barack Obama has said he was once followed in stores. But according to shoppers interviewed Monday, many people don't recognize how prevalent retail discrimination is, and how the consistent stream of small insults adds up to a large problem.

"It's one thing if you don't understand. But don't ever tell me it doesn't happen to me," said Natasha Eubanks, who shops often at high-end stores in New York City. "You can't assume it doesn't happen just because it doesn't happen to you."

Sometimes, Eubanks said, it takes clerks more than five minutes to simply acknowledge her presence. Or they brush her off after a token greeting. Or they ask her question after question: "You're a black girl up in Chanel. They want to know what you're doing here, and what you do for a living."

She says she has dealt with this type of treatment at least 20 times in New York City.

Quoted

"You're a black girl in Chanel. They want to know what you're doing here, and what you do for a living"

Natasha Eubanks, N.Y.C. shopper

Trayon Christian's problem was not how he was treated when he went into Barneys New York — it was what happened afterward. In a lawsuit filed last week, the 19-year-old said that he bought a Ferragamo belt at the Manhattan store, and when he left he was accosted by undercover city police officers.

According to the lawsuit, police said Christian "could not afford to make such an expensive purchase." He was arrested and detained, though he showed police the receipt, the debit card he used and identification, the lawsuit said.

For Yvonne Chan, the reports were a painful reminder of when she worked in a liquor store in a predominantly white Massachusetts town. Every few months someone would be caught stealing, and about half the time it was a black person.

Chan, a graduate student, always tried to remind herself not to act on stereotypes, but, "Like it or not, I'm going to have a preconceived notion of races from my experiences. As much as I would like to force my brain not to think like that and put everyone on an even playing field, stereotypes play a role in our society ... we skew the view of people as individuals."

Those skewed views can affect who gets arrested for retail theft, said Jerome Williams, a business professor at Rutgers University who has studied marketplace discrimination.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oprah Winfrey, seen here arriving at a film screening in Los Angeles, says she faced racism in Switzerland when a clerk thought she couldn't afford a $38,000 US bag. JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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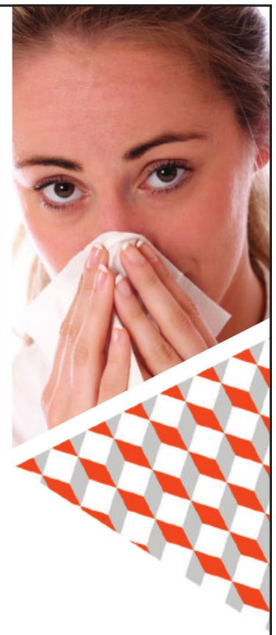

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Apple co-founder

Boyhood home of Steve Jobs now historic property

The Silicon Valley home where Apple co-founder Steve Jobs grew up and built some of his first computers is now on the city's list of historic properties.

The historical commission in Los Altos, Calif., voted unanimously for the historic designation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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Ouch! Banksy disses our architecture in rejected World Trade Center op-ed

British graffiti artist Banksy caused an uproar in the blogosphere on Monday when he wrote that New York City's new World Trade Center is so bland, "it looks like something they would build in Canada."

He also shocked New York residents by stating that the building is such a disaster that everyone who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, could view this as a betrayal and an indication that "the terrorists won."

A posting on Banksy's website says the comments were contained in an op-ed piece he submitted to the New York Times and that the newspaper refused to print it.

Eileen Murphy, spokesperson for the New York Times, told Metro newspaper in New York that "He did submit an op-ed and art. We couldn't agree on either the piece or the art, so we rejected it."

Murphy added, "What he has posted on his site is not exactly the same as what he submitted."

Banksy wrote the new World Trade Center is "like something they would build in Canada." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

However, United Kingdom-based Banksy posted the piece on his website, imagining how it would look with a mock-up of the New York Times's distinctive type and logo.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rumour has it Nordstrom will take over the Sears space in Toronto's Eaton Centre. The flagship is one of five department stores Sears is getting rid of amid turnaround efforts. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Struggling Sears shutting more stores

End of an era.
Department store is off-loading five outlets, including its flagship in Toronto's Eaton Centre

A new round of store closures by Sears Canada, which includes its flagship location in Toronto's Eaton Centre, has raised questions about the company's turnaround strategy and which American retailer will claim that coveted spot.

Sears said Tuesday it was selling the leases on five department stores, in a $400-million deal, which comes as the company pushes ahead with a broader effort to revamp its operations that will also see about 1,200 employees lose their jobs.

Let the guessing begin

"Nordstrom would be highly interested in (the Toronto Eaton Centre location)."

John Crombie, senior managing director of national retail services at Cushman and Wakefield, expects the U.S. high-end retailer will set up shop in downtown Toronto as it begins to enter the Canadian market.

The transactions amount to the biggest sale of leases since the company began to shed assets and cut jobs in an effort to revitalize its struggling operations amid intense competition.

Under the agreements, store leases for Sears locations at Sherway Gardens in Toronto, the Markville Shopping Centre in Markham, Ont., London-Masonville Place in London, Ont., and Richmond Centre in Richmond, B.C., will also be sold back to mall operator Cadillac Fairview and its partners.

The decision by Sears to exit the Eaton Centre is especially notable because it's one of the company's most visible Canadian stores, located in a central tourist area. The five-storey retail space is unique because shoppers entering the north end of the mall are forced to walk through the store to access most other stores. That design makes it especially appealing for retailers who want to increase traffic, but the massive square footage of the complex will be expensive and daunting to occupy for most companies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto	Wednesday, November 6th – 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mattamy Athletic Centre, Alumni Room 50 Carlton Street (formerly Maple Leaf Gardens)
Mississauga	Wednesday, November 13th – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Living Arts Centre, BMO Hall 4141 Living Arts Drive
Pickering	Thursday, November 14th – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Pickering Recreation Complex, West Salon 1867 Valley Farm Road

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Gather round, children and I will tell you a very scary story.

Come closer to the fire — it is cold and dark all around us and these … revelations … will make your skin crawl:

A new poll from Insights West shows that British Columbians are haunted by ghosts and spirits.

Sixty per cent believe in the afterlife and 48 per cent believe in ghosts. And if that's not spooky enough, 54 per cent believe in angels while 37 per cent believe in the devil.

Nearly 20 per cent claim to have been haunted. And we're not talking about what they did at last night's Halloween party.

If you think British Columbians are just whacked out on B.C. bud, that could be. But this poll is not so different from other surveys, including a recent one by the Huffington Post in which 64 per cent believed in the afterlife and 45 per cent in ghosts. A just-published U.K. survey found an even higher number of Brits, 52 per cent of those polled, believes in ghosts. That could be explained by the fact that the poll was taken by the "Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP)." ASSAP president Lionel Fanthorpe believes that King Arthur was an alien who came to Earth to save us from other alien invaders.

Monty Python lives.

Despite the overwhelming evidence, I'm having trouble convincing myself that every second person reading this column really believes in ghosts. Not to mention the 60 plus per cent who believe in angels, or the one in four who dance with the devil.

Of course, there is not a single shred of scientific evidence supporting these beliefs. The Higgs Boson, that elusive elementary particle, may have been an article of faith among physicists for more than a century. But now that there's data confirming its existence, we can believe in it. The jury is still (and always will be) out on the ghost of uncle Harry.

Apparently, we haven't advanced much beyond the Dark Ages when everyone was addled by spirits and ghosts, angels and devils. In fact, you could make a convincing argument that at least half of us are still comfortably ensconced in the sixth century. Well, maybe not so comfortable. The castle is drafty and this wool jerkin itches like the, um, devil.

All this mumbo jumbo persists despite modern detecting equipment that can listen to the background hum of the big bang, find a galaxy more than 13 billion light years away, and track the path of an electron. There's nothing there people. No ghosts, no angels, no alien Arthurians.

Of course, nothing I say will make any difference. People are more likely to believe in Beelzebub than in common sense. Common sense is no fun.

But I'll tell you one little secret, children. Trolls are real. Just check out the comment trail on this column in a couple of days if you don't believe me. Bwa-ha-ha.

ZOOM

Superstorm Sandy, 1 year later

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y. marks triumph over damage done

Tom Hammill places an American flag at a building site in the Breezy Point neighbourhood in the Queens borough of New York on Tuesday, a year after Superstorm Sandy struck. A firestorm spread across the beachfront neighbourhood during the storm, burning more than 100 homes, including Hammill's. Behind him are homes that are being rebuilt.

To mark Tuesday's anniversary, residents of coastal neighbourhoods in New York and New Jersey that suffered some of the worst flooding are honouring that terrible day in ways both public and private.

On Staten Island, residents will light candles by the stretch of waterfront closest to their homes at 7:45 p.m. in a "Light the Shore" vigil. Along the Jersey Shore, people plan to shine flashlights in a symbolic triumph over the darkness that Sandy brought.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the worst storms

- The storm was blamed for at least 181 deaths in the U.S. — including 68 in New York and 71 in New Jersey.
- In New York City the storm surge hit nearly 14 feet, swamping the city's subway.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
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JOANNA BOURNE/FLICKR

Braingasm, despite the obnoxious nickname, is not the latest sex toy or coital craze, but a real* phenomenon taking over YouTube channels, sub-Reddits and radio stations across the web. Despite relatively few people actually having Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response, the sound-induced tingles that start in your head and slither down your spine, ASMR has made its mark online. For those who don't have it — and if you have to wonder, you don't — watching videos of pretty girls whisper as they caress hair brush bristles might make you feel like a creep. But hey, at least now you'll know what everyone's talking about.

*Debatable. Science is still trying to figure it all out

GentleWhispering:
While not necessarily the Original Gangsta of ASMR, GentleWhispering is one of the most prolific. The blond, Eastern European whisperer has racked up more than 3.5 million views on one video alone.

Reddit:
r/ASMR is a safe for work hub of ASMR videos and discussion.

Note, redditors are not to post ASMR-like videos, so keep the music videos out, Songza playlists (yes, there is an ASMR Songza list, which does not impress the ASMR purists), etc. off the boards.

Asmr.fm:
Community of ASMRers and ASMR'tists to share a wide range (hint, hint) of ASMR videos.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A cellphone stopped a bullet that was fired at a store clerk. What do you wish your smartphone could save you from?

@MLHS_Mike: crippling self doubt? I think the new iOS update has something for that.

@Canucklehead_ca: Duck-face selfies. *sigh*

@Dennis2ride: our politicians

@Dennis2ride: MY BILLS

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In Focus

McAdams' career in a temporal loop

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
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When British author H.G. Wells created the term "time machine" way back in 1895, he could never have imagined the lasting impact his ideas of fourth dimension travel would have on the career of Rachel McAdams.

His book, The Time Machine, has been filmed twice for the big screen, but the ideas of shifting ripples of time have also inspired three very different movies starring the London, Ont., born actress.

This weekend she co-stars with Domhnall Gleeson and Bill Nighy in About Time as the present day girlfriend of a 21-year-old who uses his ability to switch time zones to learn information to woo her.

"I know I have a little bit of time travel in my past but this is different," McAdams says. "The element of time travel thrown in was unique and quirky and dealt with lightly."

Previously the Mean Girls star appeared as Clare Abshire in The Time Traveler's Wife, starring opposite Eric Bana playing a Chicago librarian with a genetic disorder known as Chrono-Displacement that causes him to involuntarily travel through time.

Rachel McAdams has a history around time machines. CONTRIBUTED

From the outset their relationship is a strange one. When they first meet she has known him since she was six years old, but because his syndrome flips him to random times in his life on an ever shifting timeline he is always meeting her for the first time. Confused?

Not as confused as Clare, who tries to build a life with Henry even though his ailment keeps them apart.

Based on a best-selling novel, it's a three-hankie story about love with no boundaries and how romance can transcend everything, even death.

In Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris it's Owen Wilson who jumps through time — finding himself transported back to 1920s Paris and hanging with F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald (Tom Hiddleston and Alison Pill), seeing Cole Porter sing at a party, drinking with Hemmingway — while McAdams stays put, bringing him back to reality, as his irritating present-day fiancée Inez.

But what about actual time travel? When she was asked by AOL if there was anything she would go back in time and change in real life, McAdams said, "I was a figure skater, so I would take back a lot of fashion choices on the ice. A lot of sequins. I would pull back on the sequins a little bit and maybe less blue eye shadow."

Arcade Fire's Haiti-inspired fourth album their most ambitious to date

New music. The highly anticipated disc from the musical innovators doesn't disappoint as the quality is only matched by the ambition of the effort

William Butler and Arcade Fire's new album Reflektor was recently released. ERIC KANYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was spring 2011 when Arcade Fire — months from a stunning Grammy Award win for album of the year, which pretty much certified the Montreal band had climbed to the highest of rock's craggy peaks — went down to Haiti and got upstaged.

They were in Cange, a lush remote village positioned on the edge of Lake Peligre. They were there primarily to visit sites where Partners in Health was working to help in the aftermath of 2010's catastrophic earthquake. But they also played a couple shows — mostly tossing off cover songs — as an opener for the rasin (Haitian roots music) band Ram.

And those spirited gigs had a profound effect.

"We played and it was really fun," multi-instrumentalist Will Butler recalls in a recent telephone interview. "And then Ram came out and played and everyone came out and danced and it was this massive party. And it was out of control and amazing — not like, out of control like someone on coke was stabbing someone in the eye with a pen or anything. But out of control like six-year-olds and 95-year-olds were dancing and old ladies on crutches and stuff.

"It was just a real town-wide celebration. And we were like, 'Oh, it would be nice to be able to go to rural Haiti and play a show that people would really dance to.'

"That definitely set a challenge for us, which we took up on some of the songs," he added. "I want to be able to play this for a roomful of strangers in a different country, who have never heard Arcade Fire, and just have them dance to it."

And so the seeds were planted for Reflektor, the indie innovators' rather transformative, sprawling fourth disc that hit stores yesterday.

In particular, the trip triggered an interest in exploring traditional Haitian rhythms. They listened closely to a range of their rhythms, tasking the drummers with weaving their styles with the propulsive percussion work of New Order's Age of Consent, for instance, or analyzing the different way fills are dispensed. They made loops of those sessions, some of which wound up on Reflektor, some of which only served as "inspiration for further experimentation."

The unconventional rhythmic heartbeat of the record is the first thing that stands out — watch how the syncopated reggae strut of Flashbulb Eyes segues into Here Comes the Night Time, a thrilling mix of breakneck Haitian pounding and an easy tropical amble.

The scope of what they tried to tackle on Reflektor is hardly surprising — outsized ambition might have always been Arcade Fire's distinguishing quality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reflektor

On the double-disc Reflektor, only four of 13 songs clock in under five minutes, with many stretching far beyond.

- **What to expect.** The first disc is giddily accessible at times, featuring several songs — distorted thrasher Normal Person, sun-drenched groover You Already Know and the stinging gallop Joan of Arc — Will Butler points out might have fit in on any of the band's records.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Jonas Brothers. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Jonas Brothers confirm break-up rumours

The Jonas Brothers have officially broken up — as a band, not a family — just three weeks after canceling their fall tour due to "a deep rift within the band," the guys announced this week.

"It's over for now," says oldest brother Kevin.

Youngest brother Nick apparently voiced some concerns about the group's future, prompting the discussion that led to the break-up.

"I was feeling kind of trapped," he tells People magazine. "I needed to share my heart with my brothers."

But middle brother Joe says Nick wasn't alone in those feelings.

"It was a unanimous decision."

Getting out

"I was feeling kind of trapped. I needed to share my heart with my brothers."

Nick Jonas
Talking about the band's break-up

Brown catches a courtroom break

Chris Brown.

Chris Brown got at least a little good news during his most recent courtroom visit, as a Washington, D.C., judge reduced the felony assault charge against the singer for allegedly punching a man outside a hotel this weekend to a misdemeanor, according to TMZ. Brown was released from custody and is scheduled to return for a hearing on Nov. 25.

The Word

Not a movie: Mr. and Mrs. Smith at war once again

Rumours of marital trouble for Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are cropping up again, with sources telling Radar Online that the stars are living separate lives — and haven't appeared in public together since August.

Smith has been in New Orleans for work since mid-September and is expected to be there through next month, while Pinkett Smith has reportedly moved out of the family's home and is living with her brother, Caleb, in Calabasas, California.

Pinkett Smith seemed to be venting a bit at a recent charity event in Baltimore, telling the audience, "When you are going through a storm with your spouse … stop thinking about what you 'believe' a husband or wife should be," according to an attendee.

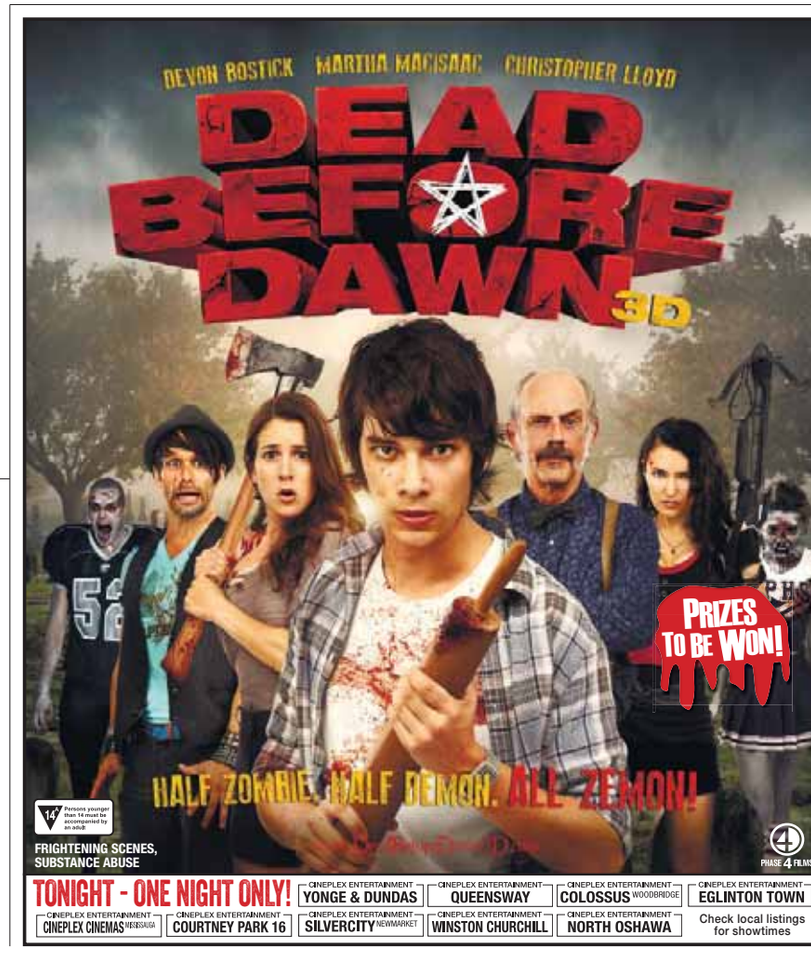
"I thought success would make me happy. It does not."

When asked about the rumored trouble, Will's mother, Carolyn Smith, told the website, "Isn't that personal? Thank you for your concern."

Quote

"I thought success would make me happy. It does not."

Jada Pinkett Smith.
Talking about her marriage and her life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Check local listings for showtimes

Magens Bay is one of the top beaches in the Caribbean, with beautiful sand and a protected swimming area. Nice bar, too. ALL PHOTOS: JIM BYERS/METRO

Wanna soak up the sun?

Paradise. St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands isn't too popular with Canucks — but with its offerings, it should be

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

This part of the Caribbean doesn't get much attention from Canadians. But it's a fabulous destination with great holiday options.

Doing

You can reach gorgeous Magens Bay beach in less than 10 minutes from the cruise harbour. It's a long stretch nestled at the end of a deep, protected cove. Great for swimming and decent for snorkelling. Charlotte Amalie is a wild shopping town for duty free goods, with peddlers out front of jewelry shops and rum bars jostling for sun-baked tourists. Some shops allow you to bargain. Pretty shops like Laksa sell hand-made jewellery in shops along the cool alleyways in town; much more fun than the joints on Main St.

The views of Charlotte Amalie and the main harbour of St. Thomas are lovely from the Blackbeard's Castle complex.

Tour the hillside Blackbeard's Castle complex, which features gardens and a small fort-like building called the Sky Tower that dates to 1679. Haagensen House is not only a beauty to tour but is home to a few prints of impressionist master Camille Pisarro, who was born and raised here. Coral World features aquariums, a touch pond where kids can feel a starfish and a snuba service, where you can swim underwater for long periods with a breathing tube attached to an air tank on the surface; like scuba without the tank on your back.

Gladys Café is a fun spot in Charlotte Amalie with great local dishes and an array of jet fuel hot sauces for sale.

Sleeping

Blackbeards Castle is a comfortable, low-key spot with great views of Charlotte Amalie's harbour and its multitude of islands. Rooms go from as little as $98 a night, including a continental breakfast, free Wi-Fi and free tours of the Blackbeards Castle complex. All rooms have refrigerators and there's a pool on-site. The nearby Hotel 1829 is fun and a little closer to town but is currently undergoing renovations. Want something a bit more upscale? There's a lovely Ritz Carlton on a 30-acre piece of property in the east end, near the cruise terminal for trips to fabulous St. John. Rooms in November recently listed from $459 a night.

Dining

Just off Main Street, also known as Dronnigens Gade from the days when this was Danish territory, you'll find the superb Gladys Café. Brilliantly coloured local artwork rests on exposed stone walls of a 300-year-old building. The fresh passion fruit juice is amazing and they also serve jerked fish and fine curries. Sample one of the homemade hot sauces and buy a bottle to bring home. The restaurant A Room With a View is in the pretty Bluebeard's Castle hotel complex (so many pirates, so many castles) high on a hill, offering great food and a romantic setting with awesome harbour views.

Drinking

Sure, you can step off your boat and head to Senor Frogs with everyone else, but you really should try something with a bit more colour. Iggies is a funky bar/restaurant right on the beach at Bolongo Bay with a casual vibe. Touristy, but not nearly as bad as the places near the cruise ships. Even prettier is the outdoor bar at Magens Bay Beach, where you can buy rum drinks for a song and watch the young folks on the beach. Or catch the iguanas sunning themselves on the terrace.

Online

- **Visit.** visitusvi.com for more information.

Welcome to Wisconsin, where the 'Door' is always open

Point of view.
Door County juts out into Lake Michigan and boasts some stunning scenery

MEL BORINS
life@metronews.ca

Door County is the name given to a 112-kilometre-long finger of a peninsula that juts out into Lake Michigan just north of the city of Green Bay in the state of Wisconsin. It is an extremely popular vacation area because it has 480 kilometres of scenic coastline made up of a dozen picturesque small fishing villages, five state parks, 19 county parks and 53 Lake Michigan beaches.

There are plenty of things to do any time of year but the area is most popular in the spring, summer and in the colourful fall when the leaves are changing.

Residents of Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and of course Green Bay use this area as their playground. Fly into Green Bay and drive the hour and a half from the airport to the quaint village of Fish Creek. The Homestead Suites, located at the entrance to Peninsula State Park, offers easy access to all the activities of Door County.

The Door County Trolley offers a narrated scenic tour that helps visitors get an overview of the peninsula and the sites to see. Our dynamic and entertaining driver and tour guide Coach John Burns took us to great views in Peninsula State Park of Horseshoe Island and Eagle Panorama. His narration made the history come alive and it was a good introduction to Door County.

State park and lighthouses

If you are a hiking or biking enthusiast then I recommend visiting Peninsula State Park. Hike Eagle Trail or bike Sunset Trail for unforgettable landscape, 150 foot cliffs and beautiful forests. The park has boating, a beautiful golf course, good swimming, nature programs and campsites.

We also took an informative tour of the still functioning Cana Island Lighthouse, at Bailey's Harbour. One of 11 lighthouses in this county, it was built in 1869 and is still functioning as a beacon to nautical traffic on Lake Michigan.

Cherries, cheese and other cuisine

One of the things Door County is famous for is the cherry industry and it is one of the top cherry producing regions in the U.S. The county is packed with over 2,000 acres of orchards. We visited County Ovens a family owned company that produces Cherry De-lites and a wide range of cherry products made from the Montmorency tart cherry. Orchard Country Winery has some 8,000 trees on 100 acres of land and produces a large variety of wines and juices. You can have some fun sampling the various products from dry to sweet, pure fruit and grape varieties in addition to sparkling and spiced wines.

When I told people I was going to Wisconsin everyone said that they produce great cheese. Since I am lactase disabled I was not able to enjoy the famous cheeses. Cheese is such a big deal in this area that it seemed that almost every food item on the menus of the restaurants I visited seem to be made with cheese. Somehow I didn't starve. I highly recommend eating at the Northern Grill at Sister Bay for fine steak and seafood. A new restaurant, Grasse Grille, which was opened in the past year by owner and chef Jimmy Grasse, served good burgers and sandwiches and was packed when we visited.

Door County is known for its 480 kilometres of scenic coastline. MEL BORINS/FOR METRO

Halloween trips

Tours in the crypt: Grave sites to visit

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
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Halifax's Fairview Lawn Cemetery holds the graves of Titanic victims. ISTOCK

Ghosts and ghouls aren't the only ones who lurk around cemeteries. Graveyards can be popular tourist attractions, offering intimate insights into a destination's history, personality and "former" residents. Here are five worth a look.

Halifax's Fairview Lawn Cemetery is the final resting place of 121 victims of the Titanic disaster, more than any other cemetery in the world. Take note of the worn-out trail of grass leading to the grave of J. Dawson, one of the Titanic's coal scuttlers. Despite the fact that the "J" stands for Joseph, adoring fans still pay homage to the grave, thinking it belongs to Jack Dawson, the main character of the movie Titanic, played by Leonardo DiCaprio.

Boston's Old Granary Burying Ground is part of the city's famous Freedom Trail, a walking path linking Boston's most historic sites. As the final resting place of American political icons such as Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Paul Revere, it gives visitors the chance to learn American history in a place of quiet contemplation.

Paris's Père-Lachaise Cemetery is home to a collection of celebrity corpses. The design of the cemetery's tombs, the intricacy of the carvings and inscriptions, and the remembrances that are still left today, say much about the personalities buried beneath. Irish writer and poet Oscar Wilde's grave, for example, is almost always adorned with fresh lipstick kisses; while Door's lead singer Jim Morrison's is surrounded by graffiti, wine bottles and scraps of poetry-filled paper.

New Orleans' St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 with its above-ground tombs is a haunting example of the Old World burial traditions practised by the city's early French and Spanish settlers. The tomb of Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau is shrouded in mystery, and has become a shrine for people hoping to be granted a wish. Visitors score her tombstone with Xs and often leave offerings of Dixie beer bottles filled with live cockroaches.

Buenos Aires' Cementerio de la Recoleta is the final resting place of Eva Perón. The former first lady of Argentina, along with some 40 relatives, can be found in the Duarte family crypt. Although her name is a draw for tourists, it's the beauty of the pristine marble mausoleums with their ornate, spiral staircases that will turn a quick visit into a three-hour meander.

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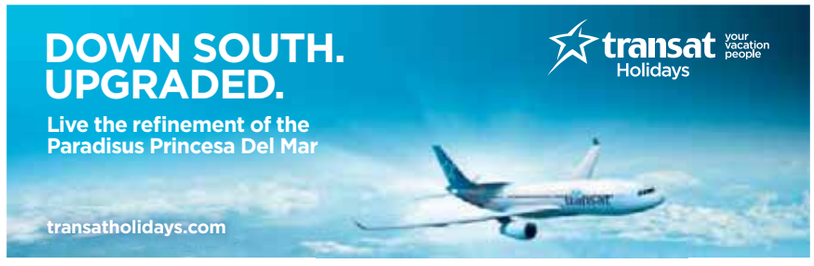

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On a roll! Tortilla Bites make you the host with the most, sans effort

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Use fresh, different colour large tortillas for this recipe.

If you can only find thin asparagus than use 12 not six.

Want to make these in advance? Roast the asparagus and immediately chill to stop the cooking process. They can be prepared up to a day ahead if wrapped well in plastic wrap and chilled. They're great for a large group of people.

Ingredients

- 6 medium-thick spears of asparagus
- 1/2 cup light (5%) ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup softened light (25% reduced) cream cheese
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp chopped green onions
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 3 large flour tortillas
- 1 cup baby spinach leaves
- 3 oz sliced smoked salmon

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Place the asparagus on a baking sheet sprayed with vegetable oil. Bake for 8 minutes or just until bright green.

2. In a food processor, or in a bowl using an electric mixer, beat the ricotta, cream cheese, mayonnaise, green onions, lemon juice, garlic, and salt and pepper until smooth.

3. Spread cheese mixture evenly over the tortillas. Scatter the spinach leaves overtop. Place the smoked salmon on top of the spinach. Place 2 spears of the asparagus near the bottom of each tortilla. Roll up tightly, wrap in plastic wrap, and chill.

4. Cut each tortilla on the diagonal into 6 pieces.

Smoked Salmon and Roasted Asparagus Tortilla Bites

This recipe makes 18 servings. ROSE REISMAN

Drink of the Week

Avocado Mezcal Cocktail

- 1 avocado from Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 6 oz (175 ml) white mezcal
- 6 oz (175 ml) lime juice
- 4 oz (125 ml) light agave nectar
- 3 oz (90 ml) Midori
- 2 oz (60 ml) Cointrea
- 2 cups (500 ml) ice
- Garnish: Junior Merino's Cactus & Lemongrass Rimmer and avocado wedges

In a blender, combine all ingredients, except ice. Whirl until combined. Add 2 cups (500 ml) of ice and blend until smooth.

Serve in a glass rimmed with Junior Merino's Cactus & Lemongrass Rimmer.

Garnish with avocado wedge pressed in Junior Merino's Hibiscus Rose Rimmer.

COURTESY OF MISSAVACADO.CA

Dinner. Spicy Shrimp & Haddock Stew

1. In saucepan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add potatoes, onion, garlic, thyme, paprika, red pepper flakes and fennel seeds. Cook, stirring often, until onion is softened, 5 minutes.

2. Add celery, tomatoes (and any juice in can), clam juice and water. Bring to simmer, reduce heat to low and cook 30 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.

3. Add shrimp and haddock, and increase heat slightly to maintain a simmer. Cook 5 minutes, or just until shrimp are pink and haddock flakes easily. Stir in parsley, dill and lemon juice, season with salt and pepper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 russet potatoes, diced
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp each red pepper flakes and fennel seeds, lightly crushed
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 15-oz can diced tomatoes
- 8-oz bottle clam juice
- 2 cups water
- 1 lb raw, shelled extra-large shrimp
- 1 lb haddock, cut in chunks
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh dill
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and ground black pepper

Of perks and petroleum: an industry that brings you a barrel of options

That career's a real gas. Do you have what it takes to work in this flourishing field?

ELIAS
DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

While there's no one particular set of skills that ensure success in the oil and gas industry, some commonly valued attributes include a good work ethic, positive attitude, teamwork-oriented disposition, a desire to learn and grow, and a high level of adaptability. ISTOCK

Variety is one of the most remarkable qualities offered by careers choices in the oil and gas industry.

There's something for everyone, whether you're beginning your first career or starting a new one. With opportunities for work indoors and outdoors, physical and creative tasks, and even detailed or big-picture work, the oil and gas industry can accommodate every disposition and personality.

Besides variety, there's also opportunity. Petroleum products play a central part in the average person's daily life, which means strong and steady growth in the oil and gas industry is a sure thing.

A little research into the oil and gas industry confirms that the people are what make it all possible.

The big picture

Many roles in the oilsands workforce involve work in the field.

According to the latest report by the Petroleum Human Resources Council, one of the most in-demand positions in the oil and gas industry over the next decade will be the power engineer role, responsible for the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of industrial equipment of in-situ and upgrading operations.

Positions for heavy equipment operators and heavy-duty equipment mechanics (who maintain and repair engines and engine support systems) will also be quite popular.

If you're interested in work that is tangible, applied and hands-on, these positions are a great avenue to consider, as you'll be well-positioned to fulfill a key support role in keeping the oil and gas industry up to speed.

However, it's a common misconception that a career in the oil and gas industry means only one kind of work.

More than one kind of job

The Petroleum Human Resources Council report indicates that the oil and gas industry is on track for steady and significant growth in the next decade and will need more than 30,000 new employees.

This future growth potential creates a field of opportunity for professional roles that you might have overlooked!

While many of these roles are for skilled trades and technical roles one might typically associate with the oil and gas industry, it's important to recognize that work in this field includes opportunities for a diverse range of skillsets.

For example, the report found that there will be significant growth in opportunity for employees in human resources, a field which makes up roughly 15 per cent of the oil sands workforce.

There will also be opportunities for diverse number of careers, like environmental technicians and inspectors, public relations and communications, and supply chain roles in shipping, receiving, management, purchasing and inventory and more.

These fields not only offer different kinds of working environments and responsibilities, they also accommodate different educational backgrounds, which means that finding the right oil and gas career has never been easier.

Though much oil and gas industry growth will take place in the western provinces, there are also opportunities for careers in oil and gas in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Quebec.

This is great news if you're apprehensive about relocation.

A real lifestyle

The oil and gas industry also accommodates a variety of lifestyles. While many positions involve working outdoors, that doesn't mean you'll be leaving all indoor comforts behind. When oil and gas extraction sites are found in remote areas, most workers reside in camps set apart from work locations. A number of these offer gym amenities, coffee shops, satellite television and internet.

Some positions require workers to fly in and out of work sites by helicopter, meaning that your commute to work will always be exciting!

Other work sites are a brief commute from nearby towns and cities, where industry workers have access to shopping centres, entertainment and thriving nightlife.

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Safety drill

It's important to recognize that safety is a key value in the oil and gas industry

- With so many people working in hands-on roles, it's imperative that employers in oil and gas go above and beyond the norm to achieve the highest safety standards.
- Canada's oil and gas industry has an excellent safety reputation worldwide – one backed by a proven track record of excellence ensuring a safe workplace.
- A 2011 study conducted by Work Safe Alberta found that the oil and gas industry has the fewest lost-time claim and injury rates when compared to other labour-intensive fields like construction and transportation.

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Oh the places you'll go in this profession

Would you consider a career in oil and gas? With high demand and growth potential, a career in oil and gas has a lot to offer. Here's a quick introduction to some of the most in-demand jobs in the oil and gas industry:

JESSICA CRUZ
TalentEgg.ca

Petroleum Engineer

Petroleum engineers apply a diverse mix of knowledge from fields including geology, chemistry and engineering sciences in order to extract petroleum. A petroleum engineer could also be called a design engineer, engineer, oil and gas engineer, production engineer or up-stream processing engineer. Specialties range from oil and gas drilling to areas with a specific focus on reservoir management and production.

What are the education and experience requirements?
- Degree in petroleum engineering or a related field.
- Minimum of four years post-secondary education or training (co-op programs usually take five years to complete, but offer an experience advantage).
- Registered petroleum engineer under provincial requirements.

Geophysicist

Geophysicists use physics, math and geology to dig into how the earth is put together. They explore oil, gas, water and minerals using data processing, data interpretation and data selection methods.

Geophysicists work in the same family of geoscientists as geologists, often dividing their time between office and field work.

A geophysicist may also be called an Environmental Geophysicist, Exploration Geophysicist, Mining Geophysicist, Petroleum Exploration Geophysicist or Physical Scientist.

What are the education and experience requirements?

- Four years post-secondary education and training.
- Bachelor of Science degree in geophysics or a related science with courses in geophysics, electronics, physics, chemistry, geology, mathematics or computer science.
- Roles in research require a doctorate.
- Many companies provide additional training in specialized techniques in oil and gas or mineral exploration.

Trades

Skilled trades professionals working in oil and gas are responsible for various manual labour tasks.

Since these tasks are essential to every project, skilled trades professionals work in a variety of environments. There are ,ore than 200 trades occupations related to a career in the oil and gas industry!

What are the education and experience requirements?

- Educational requirements depend on the province.
- High school diploma recommended.
- Certified Journeyperson status.

In-demand areas of trade specialization: Crane operators, heavy-duty equipment mechanics or technicians, industrial electricians, industrial instrument mechanics, industrial mechanics and millwrights, insulators, machinists, rig technicians, steamfitters and pipefitters, welders.

Geologist

Geologists work closely with geophysicists. Their expertise in rocks and the Earth's crust allows them to study deposits. While you might think this role involves a lot of outdoor work (it can!), there's also a lot of traditional office work indoors.

Geologists compile reports, conduct analyses and study maps from field and lab work. Some may spend months in remote areas that cover large areas of land conducting ongoing work.

A geologist can also be called a petroleum geologist, physical scientist, planetary geologist, research scientist, sedimentologist, stratigrapher, surficial geologist, or volcanologist.

What are the education and experience requirements?

- Bachelor of Science degree in geology.
- Four years of post-secondary education with additional professional development, which includes work experience or education depending on the position.
- Registered Geologist in line with provincial requirements.

Taking a swing at your studies in one fell swoop? Break it up!

Are you giving the books your best?

Expert advice on how to make a successful go of your study time

BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News

Was cramming for this exam the best way to go? ISTOCK

Developmental psychologist Donald J. Foss has been studying the mental gymnastics of learning comprehension for more than three decades. His latest book — Your Complete Guide to College Success: How to Study Smart, Achieve Your Goals, and Enjoy Campus Life — is an attempt to put accepted psychological research on learning into plain language for every post-secondary student. We asked him for his insight on learning styles, study habits and slogging through obstacles.

What's the biggest misconception students have about studying?
If there's one thing we know about studying, it's that comprehension increases when you break it up over a long period of time. The best way to retain information is to study in small chunks, interwoven with other tasks. Yet, students are usually resistant to that idea. They don't like continually warming up to the topic. Most people would rather learn in one long sitting.

When it comes to studying, are there different learning styles?
Yes. But I think that's overemphasized. You hear a lot students say, 'The material isn't being presented in my learning style.' And that may be true, but that's not a very good predictor of how students do in any given class. It's pretty clear there are some best practices that seem to work for just about every style of learning.

Pack mentality

What makes a good study group?

- If you can be honest with each other about how well you know the material, you're putting yourself on better footing than most students.
- I find most students think they truly know the material as long as they can recognize the information. But that's like just humming a tune when your job is to sing a song with lyrics and melody. If you can't explain the material to each other, it's better to find that out in the group than on exam day.

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Raptors reunited and DeRozan feels so good

Season preview. After years of upheaval, Toronto swingman will finally see familiar faces at season's tipoff

Players have come and players have gone in a constant five-year blur of marginal talent, failed experiments and roster fillers and recently, the ridiculous nature of the past got to DeMar DeRozan.

"One day, I was watching an old game — my second or third year — and somebody was in the game with me and I didn't even know who it was," the Raptor swingman said. "Not to be disrespectful or nothing to that player but I didn't know him. I had to ask. And I forget who it was now, somebody who came up for a 10-day, maybe.

"It's been just crazy."

If there is a storyline that supersedes all others as the Raptors prepare to open the regular season at home Wednesday against the Boston Celtics, it is that there is — finally — some continuity among the team's best players and starting five.

DeRozan, Kyle Lowry, Rudy Gay, Amir Johnson and Jonas Valanciunas return after finishing last year as a unit.

Coach Dwane Casey welcomes the consistency after years of constant change.

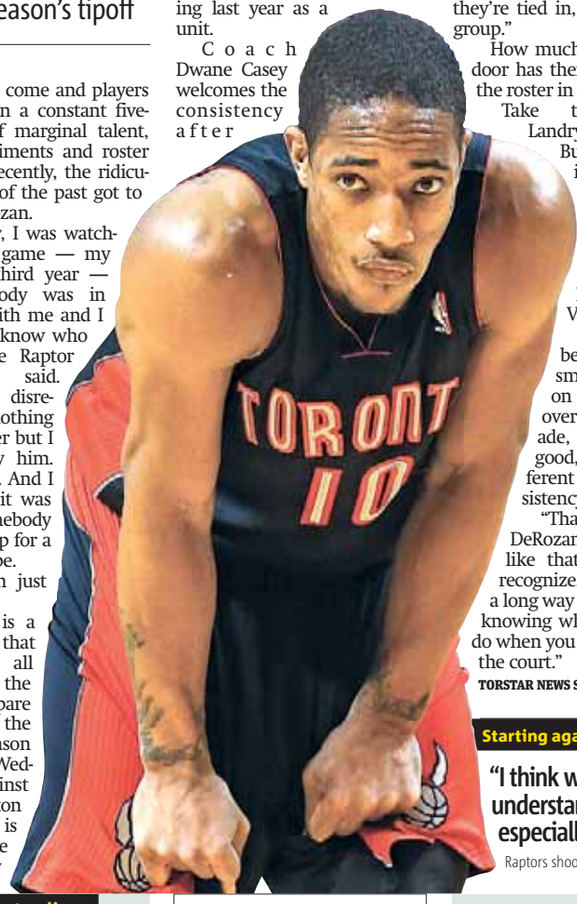
"It's huge, the continuity," he said. "We can say one word and guys understand the terminology. Defensively they know what we're doing, they're tied in, I like our first group."

How much of a revolving door has there been around the roster in the recent past? Take these names: Landry Fields, Rasual Butler, Linas Kleiza, Hedo Turkoglu, Jamario Moon, Jason Kapono, Morris Peterson, Joey Graham, Michael Curry, Vince Carter.

Those have been the starting small forwards on Opening Night over the past decade, a mishmash of good, bad and indifferent with no consistency at all.

"That's crazy," said DeRozan. "Little stuff like that, people don't recognize. I think it goes a long way with chemistry, knowing what you have to do when you go out there on the court."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Starting again

"I think we're definitely beginning to click and understand each other more and more every day, especially knowing what we can do from last year."

Raptors shooting guard DeMar DeRozan on Toronto's starting five.

Deadline for success

Don't take tanking off the table

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

Though they have been loath to share it around, the Raptors have set themselves an early deadline.

According to someone involved in the process, the team has 45 days from the start of the season to prove they are a sustainable playoff team.

If that goal does not appear viable, they will begin dismantling the team ahead of the so promising 2013 draft class.

Bottom line — no matter how many times the organization publicly scoffs at the idea of "the tank," it may be the undeclared marching order by Christmas.

Go to metronews.ca for more of Cathal Kelly's take on the Raptors at the season's outset.

Opening night. George, Hibbert steer Pacers to win over Magic

Paul George scored 24 points, and Roy Hibbert added 16 rebounds and seven blocks, leading the Indiana Pacers to a 97-87 victory over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

The two-man tandem looked every bit as dominant in the season opener as they did leading the Pacers (1-0) to the Eastern Conference finals last season.

George's buzzer-beating three-pointer at the end of the third quarter gave Indiana a 69-64 lead and sparked the decisive 17-4 run to open the fourth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul George celebrates during Tuesday night's season-opening win over the Orlando Magic in Indianapolis GETTY IMAGES

On the web

Go to metronews.ca for more coverage of NBA Opening Night, including Chicago at Miami and Clippers at Lakers.

Five Raptor storylines

Dwane Casey

Casey survived the off-season staff overhaul, but has just a season left on his contract. GM Masai Ujiri has been vocal in his support, saying, "People say 'Hey, Coach Casey is here on a one-year deal. But we're here to grow, and we're here to grow with Coach Casey." Still, Casey can't afford a similar start to last season's woeful 4-19.

Rudy Gay

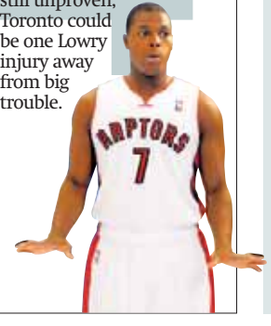
The Raptors finished 17-16 after bringing Gay to Toronto, but there were concerns about his shot selection. He had eye surgery in the off-season, but it remains to be seen if it will help his shooting. With two years and $37 million US left on his contract, it will be interesting to see if he's still a Raptor at season's end.

Jonas Valanciunas

The 21-year-old Lithuanian was knocked about by the league's best centres in an inauspicious start to his NBA career. But his continuous improvement made him one of the few positive storylines last season. Valanciunas, who earned MVP honours in the summer league, shoulders heavy expectations to surge in his sophomore season.

Point guard

Incumbent Kyle Lowry has vowed to have a better season, and came into camp significantly leaner. Still, with D.J. Augustin coming off a career-worst season, and Dwight Buycks still unproven, Toronto could be one Lowry injury away from big trouble.



Tank Nation?

Thornhill's Andrew Wiggins is being touted as the No. 1 NBA draft pick and may be the best player to come along since LeBron James. There have been suggestions the Raptors should position themselves to potentially get Wiggins. But Casey and Ujiri have scoffed at that notion, saying you can't teach a team to win by purposefully losing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skier befriends fear to grow mentally strong

Road to Sochi.
Canadian pushing limits off slopes so she can calm nerves on them

Erin Mielzynski competes during the World Cup slalom race on March 16 in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. ALAIN GROSCLAUDE/AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES

Erin Mielzynski is not a fan of heights, but she still tried diving from a 10-metre tower this summer. The Canadian skier also learned how to surf last spring and took on the waves along the Kananaskis River.

Mountain biking is not her forte but she was determined to give that a try too.

She calls it "fear training."

The slalom specialist is hoping that pushing herself outside her comfort zone during the off-season will help make her more mentally prepared on the slopes.

"Our sport has to do with a lot of fear," she said Tuesday at a ski team availability. "There's fear standing at the start. Fear of not doing enough, fear of the speed. I mean, it's fast."

Mielzynski, from Guelph, competed at the 2010 Vancouver Games and has two World Cup podium appearances on her resumé. In March 2012, she became the first Canadian since Betsy Clifford in 1971 to win a World Cup women's slalom race.

She added a World Cup silver last season and has a shot to make a podium appearance at next year's Sochi Olympics. The 23-year-old hopes that fear training will help her stay calm and focused when the pressure is heightened during competition.

"It's just about pushing your limits," Mielzynski said. "Do one thing a day that scares you and if not, then maybe do two the next day. I think that's really important because it keeps you guessing, keeps you pushing and keeps the love of the sport alive."

Mielzynski, who trains for five hours each day, felt invigorated after trying new things in the off-season.

"When I'm going down fast and I'm avoiding rocks and things, I have to be so aware of what I'm doing," she said. "Even though the fear is there and the heart rate is high, I still have to be aware. And that's the same with skiing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"There's always an element of fear. It should be there. If you're totally comfortable, it's not right." Skier Erin Mielzynski

World Series

Victorino back in play for Red Sox

Shane Victorino's stiff back is feeling better, so Red Sox manager John Farrell plans to start him when Boston tries to win the World Series championship in Game 6.

Shane Victorino GETTY IMAGES FILE

Boston leads the St. Louis Cardinals 3-2 going into Wednesday night.

The right fielder missed the last two games, and the Red Sox won without him. In Game 4, Jonny Gomes hit a three-run homer in a 4-2 win after Victorino was a late scratch from the lineup.

Victorino also sat out Monday night's 3-1 victory, although his back wasn't as stiff as it had been.

Victorino is having a rough Series at 0-for-10.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

R.A. Dickey

Blue Jays pitcher wins Gold Glove

R.A. Dickey earned an American League Gold Glove on Tuesday to become the first Toronto Blue Jays pitcher to win the award.

He had only two errors in his 224.2 innings of play, qualifying him for the award as best fielder at his position for the first time in his career.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA basketball

Wiggins scores 16 points in pre-season debut

Top prospect Andrew Wiggins scored 16 points in his Allen Fieldhouse debut, leading Kansas to a 97-57 rout of Pittsburg State in its exhibition opener Tuesday night.

Wiggins appeared jittery playing in front of a raucous crowd and travelled the first time he touched the ball. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DRIVE 5

The 2014 Kia Forte

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 Kia Forte

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (173); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, (201)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual (std.1.6); six-speed automatic (std. 2.0, opt. 1.6)
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $21,500

Design

Kia's design team, headed by ace shape-maker Peter Schreyer, has added to the wagon's aggressive nature by reducing the rear body overhang several centimetres, while pushing the left and right wheels as far apart as possible. The overall effect is that of an attractive Euro-style sport wagon.

Luxury class extras

In addition to the more commonplace power-operated sunroof and touch-screen navigation system, you can order leather-covered seats with front and rear cooling and ventilation, a 10-way power driver's seat with memory presets, a heated steering wheel and high-intensity discharge headlights.

Review. Quality Korean export goes way beyond simply being practical

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Small cars such as the Kia Forte are at their best when they are shaped in the most practical body style possible. Not everyone subscribes to this postulation, which is why Kia and other automakers make sedan as well as hatchback or wagon versions of their compact automobiles.

For maximizing a minimal amount of space, especially with the rear seats folded down, the Kia Forte5 can literally work wonders by providing more passenger and cargo room than its sedan relation.

The front-wheel-drive compact wagon also does it with more style, beginning with the front end where an aggressive-looking open-mouth nosepiece replaces the Forte sedan's more traditional grille, which is different again from the 2014 Forte Koup.

As well, the wagon has been given a suspension setup that's tuned for sportier handling.

The Forte5's interior isn't quite as dramatic, but at least the dashboard and control panel appear intelligently laid-out, including large and easy-to-read gauges plus a generously sized display screen for the optional navigation system.

For passengers, especially those in the rear seat, the wagon's five-centimetre stretch between the front and rear wheels provides some extra legroom.

Adding to the sport-wagon theme is a pair of stout little powerplants.

The starting-point EX runs with a 2.0-litre four-cylinder that produces 173 horsepower and 154 pound-feet of torque. The sportier side of the Forte5's demeanor is demonstrated with the up-level SX's turbo-charged 1.6-litre four-cylinder that pumps out 201 horsepower and 195 pound-feet of torque. Both engines use direct injection, whereby fuel is sprayed directly into the cylinders under extremely high pressure and not through the intake manifold.

Most automakers are adopting direct injection as a way to increase power (important on small-displacement engines) while reducing fuel consumption and curbing emissions.

Kia (and its Hyundai parent) has so far resisted the growing shift to continuously variable transmissions that appears to be spreading throughout the industry.

A traditional six-speed automatic is your only choice with the 2.0, while the turbo 1.6 can be ordered with a six-speed manual gearbox as well as an available six-speed automatic.

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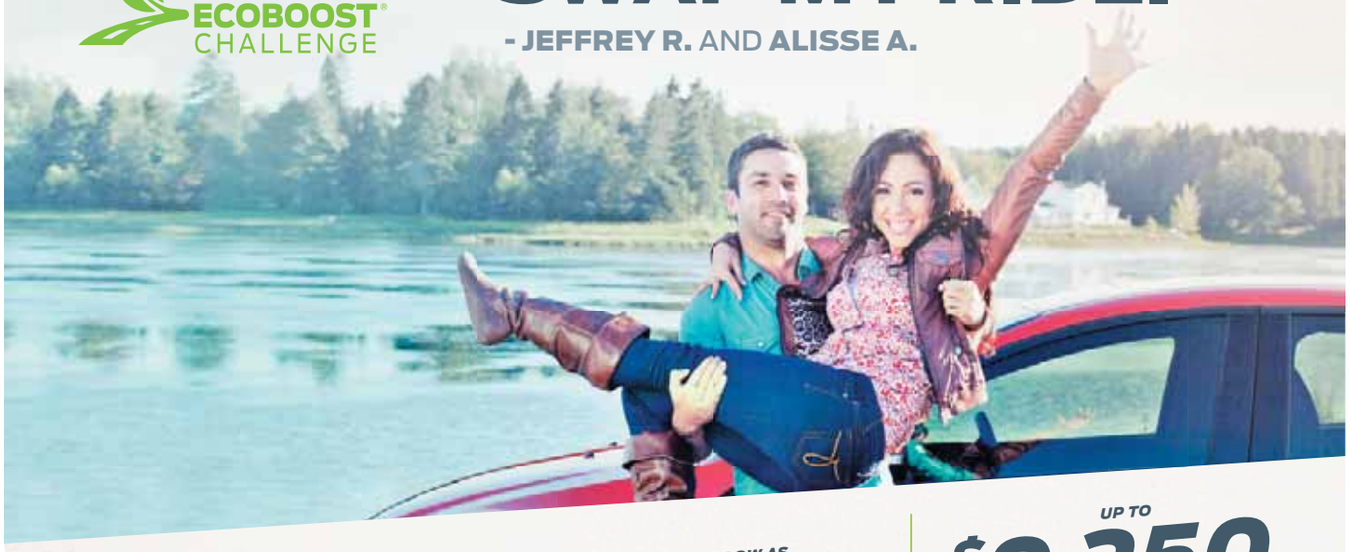

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2014 Fiesta SE model shown

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Manufacturer rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ††Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 Focus 2.0L I4 5-Speed Manual, 2014 Escape 2.5L I4 6-Speed Automatic, 2014 Fiesta 1.6L – I4 5-Speed Manual, 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Model shown is 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST: 15.1L/100 km city and 10.7L/100 km hwy; Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. **Offer only valid from September 4, 2013 to October 31, 2013 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with a Costco membership on or before August 31, 2013. Use this $1,000CDN Costco member offer towards the purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The Costco Membership Number. 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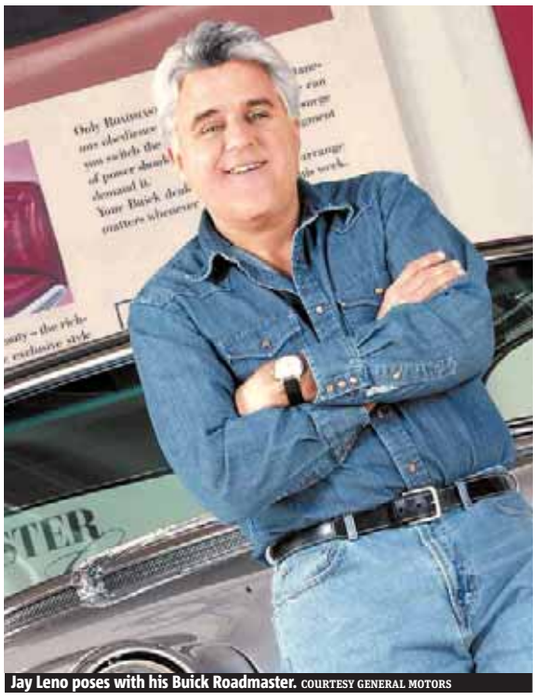
Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all-season tires. Consult your Ford or Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. ††F-Series is the best-selling pickup truck in Canada for 47 years in a row based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report, December 2012. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

A peek inside the Big Dog Garage



Jay Leno poses with his Buick Roadmaster. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS

Autoknow. Jay Leno's collection of 130 cars is no museum — they're all licensed, insured and ready to drive

GARRY SOWERBY
wheelbasemedia.com

Even though my wife Lisa and I are in a sleek Cadillac CTS Sport Wagon, it feels a bit like a police stakeout parked on a side street in southern California's urban sprawl.

There is nervousness in the pit of my stomach as I fiddle through the XM satellite radio stations, oblivious to the music filling the comfortable leather-appointed interior.

"Another 14 minutes and we can go in," I tell Lisa, who has been checking the chin size on every driver of every car that goes by.

My apprehension is understandable since we are holed up around the corner from Jay Leno's Big Dog Garage, a sprawling, gated compound where the iconic comedian/late-night talk-show host parks, rebuilds and finesses his collection of 130 cars and more than 100 motorcycles. I consider my fleet of 10 cars and trucks back home and wonder what Jay would think of my 1991 Pontiac Firefly.

Our appointment at the compound is with Bob. Although we've been playing phone tag with Jay's public-relations manager for a couple of days, I still don't have a clear-cut answer if we were actually going to meet Jay.

But at least Bob is at the gate, and he informs us we can take only one picture during the visit and one of us has to be in it. Talk about having just one shot. So much for the big photo spread I had been counting on to accompany these words.

Bob, a friendly, elderly Californian, has been working with Leno's car collection for more than two decades and knows all six buildings inside out. Car facts, horsepower numbers and automotive lore roll off his tongue.

Quoted

"Jay likes manual-transmission cars but his automotive thirst really is all-encompassing."

Bob, who has been working on Jay Leno's car collection for more than two decades

It's somewhat overwhelming walking through the buildings that house one of the most eclectic and extensive collections of automotive history in the world. And this is no museum, since all the cars here are licensed, insured and ready to drive. From Bugattis to Stanley Steamers and Detroit Muscle, they patiently wait for their master to come in and pick them for a little spin.

"Is Jay around this morning, Bob?" I ask.

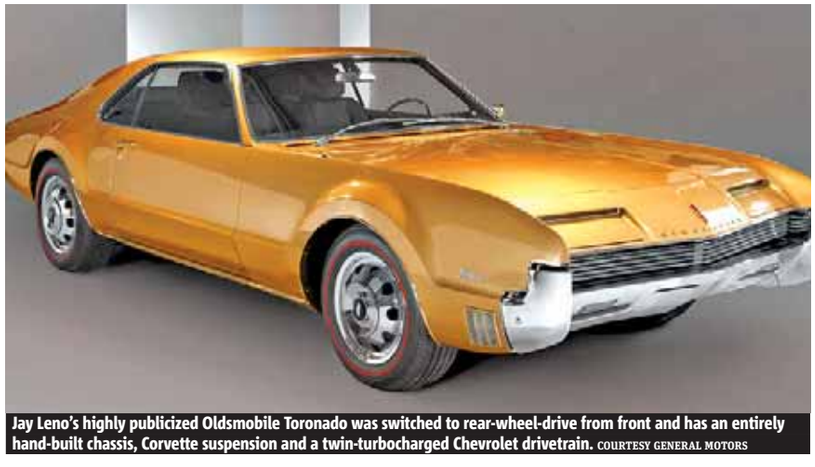
"He comes in every day. But wait. There's an empty stall over there in the Bentley line-up. I guess he came and got a Bentley so he has probably gone to the studio."

As we stroll down the lines of cars, I try to decide which one I would pick to take home. What about the first production ZR1 Corvette, the sixth Dodge Viper ever built or one of the 1960s muscle cars? I eye a green Dodge Coronet with the fabled 426-cubic-inch Hemi V8 engine. It's one of the few automatics though, so forget that one, Garry.

"Jay likes manual-transmission cars but his automotive thirst really is all encompassing." Bob is on a roll now. "Over there is a mid-'60s Chrysler Turbine car. It idles at 26,000 r.p.m." Nice. A jet engine in car. Too bad it never got off the ground, so to speak, because the car is stunning.

Some of the cars look absolutely normal, such as the 1966 tan Oldsmobile Toronado. But under the hood lurks a 1,100-horsepower twin-turbocharged Chevrolet engine. And of course the front-drive car has been retrofitted with rear wheel drive.

This is the exact car that Jay drove to California at the beginning of his career. He kept the Buick Roadmaster all these years and then revamped it with modern suspension and a big Chevrolet V8. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS



Jay Leno's highly publicized Oldsmobile Toronado was switched to rear-wheel-drive from front and has an entirely hand-built chassis, Corvette suspension and a twin-turbocharged Chevrolet drivetrain. COURTESY GENERAL MOTORS

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Last-gen Sierra looks to be a solid truck

Second gear.
2007-2013
GMC Sierra

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The last-generation Sierra was available from 2007 to 2013 inclusive, and offered up a plethora of engines, drivelines, body styles and options packages. Competitors included other full-sized trucks like the Dodge Ram, Ford F-150, Nissan Titan and Toyota Tundra. An all-new-for-2014 Sierra model is on dealer lots now. Feature content included a sunroof, heated leather seats, OnStar, Bluetooth, BOSE audio, navigation and remote start — depending on the model in question.

CONTRIBUTED

Commonissues

Cycle through the various four-wheel drive modes, if equipped, ensuring the truck is able to switch between them as outlined in the owner's manual. Check the oil level and condition in any used model, noting that oil consumption was well documented in earlier models with the 5.3-litre engine. This may have been caused by the operation of the cylinder-deactivation system. If you're worried, opt for another engine, or a 2010 or later-model Sierra. Pop the hood and listen to the engine idle. Zero your ears in to the top of the engine's heads, noting any excessive clicking or clacking sounds that could indicate valve lifter issues. Insist on hearing the engine start up when it's cold, when these sounds are likely to be most apparent. A mechanic can help here if you're not sure. A faulty brake-light switch is the likely culprit if the cruise control is non-functional — though this is an easy part to replace.

What owners like

Owners praise the tough, rugged, safe and solid feel of their Sierras, along with space, ride comfort and confidence. Performance and towing confidence with the larger V8 engines is also highly rated.

What owners dislike

Difficulty parking, cheap interior plastics and excessive road noise on some models are the most common complaints.

Engine

Most models in the used market will pack a V8 engine, displacing either 4.8 or 5.3 litres—though a larger 6.2 litre V8 with over 400 horsepower was available, as was a 4.3 litre V6. Active Fuel Management (AFM) de-activated unneeded cylinders on the 5.3 litre engine, and a driveline update from 2011 and on helped improve fuel economy on all models.

The verdict

The last-generation Sierra was loved for its comfort, toughness and capability — and GM's 160,000 kilometre powertrain warranty should help add confidence to the purchase of a newer used model. Common problems seem mainly straightforward and easily identified.

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1.6 SL Tech model shown*

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Even life in the eco-fast lane could lead to an auto rebound

More drivers on the road. Congestion and fuel costs might slow things down a bit, but Canadians are still driving more

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
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For hockey goalies and their defensemen, controlling rebounds can be the difference between registering a shut out and being on the ugly end of a blow out.

Controlling rebounds is also part of the automotive environmental game, because every time there is an advance in this area there is a "rebound effect" to consider.

Basically it's a case of, if the technology makes driving cheaper and/or less of a guilt trip, then drivers will drive more.

It's a conundrum we've faced many times. Calorie-reduced or fat-reduced snack-food is a prime example. What we lose in calories per serving, we make up for in the number of servings. Just for the record, it says on my tube of "reduced fat" Pringles that 28 grams, or approximately 16 chips, is a "serving." I don't think so.

The automotive rebound is going to be particularly interesting to watch, because the reduced fuel costs and emissions come at virtually no expense to the driving experience. In fact, vehicles are getting more awesome. I could go on indefinitely about all the cool cars and features available today, but really just need to point out two items — heated steering wheel, heated and cooled driver's seat — because once your extremities are happy, your mood automatically follows.

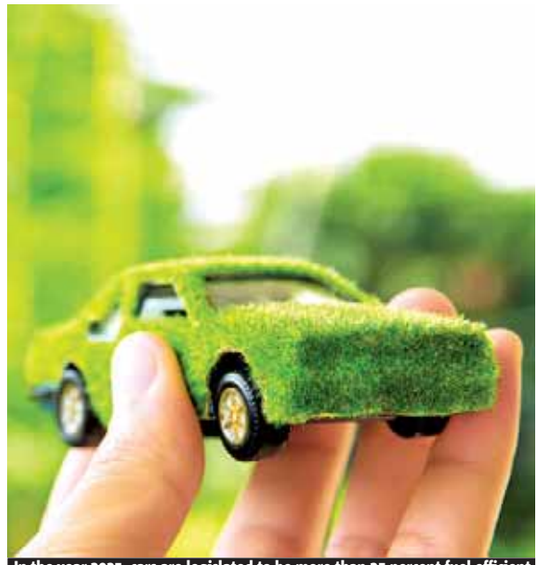
We already don't need an excuse to drive more. More people have more places to go and more places to see. And more people want to own and drive vehicles. No surprise if I tell you there is more driving being done every year. A Statistics Canada survey estimated that, during 2009, Canadians drove their cars and light-duty trucks for a combined 293,298.8 million kilometres! In 2005, the number was 277,660.4 million. StatsCan doesn't do the survey any more, but I'm sure the numbers for 2013 would be up and alarming.

And one wonders how much driving we'll be doing in the year 2025, when cars are legislated to be more than 35 per cent fuel efficient than they are today? In 2010 the sales-weighted fuel economy average of new passenger cars was 7.9 L/100 km. According to Environment Canada, the emission regulations will push that weighted average to 6.0 L/100 km in 2020, and to 5.0 L/100 km by 2025.

Congestion and increasing vehicle ownership and fuel costs might slow things down a bit, but I think we'll always be driving if we can — and they'll be more of us.

People are working on the congestion and ownership issues (smart grids, car sharing, self-parking, etc.), so if they net some gains and make everything nice, they will have their own "rebound effects" to add to the pile. Yeah, more vehicles built, fueled, driven, etc.

Until then, there's only one thing to do about rebounds — cover your man, keep your stick on the ice.



In the year 2025, cars are legislated to be more than 35 percent fuel efficient than they are today. ISTOCK

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Honda

Nissan asks: What do women really want?

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Research

- Nissan found that only 10 per cent of women would consider buying a pink car.

Back in 1955, Dodge introduced a new model called La Femme. Aimed at women, it was painted in pastel colours, and included a matching raincoat and umbrella.

It failed, proving that it takes more than just a few "feminine touches" to appeal to female buyers. But while automakers generally know what won't work, it's an ongoing challenge to determine what does.

"I think women are misunderstood, and it's because the industry assumes they're disinterested in cars, and find them boring and one-dimensional," says Rachel Nguyen, director of exploratory and advanced product planning for Nissan's head office in Los Angeles. "Instead, they see it in their lives, and if they will enjoy being in it.

"When women walk into a dealership, they don't say, 'Wow, look at that new grille, it's so great compared to the last generation.' They look at the whole thing, and it's more than just the product."

Nguyen works with teams of designers, engineers and planners to identify major trends and customer needs, and also with consumers. While discussion groups are important, the company also uses immersion research that can include going into people's homes. "We're looking for insights," she says. "It's not typical market research. Immersing in these women's lives is where we gain our insight and tells us what we need to do."

This research has led Nissan to incorporate such things as lighting and materials to improve the vehicle cabin's appearance, along with practicality. On three-row SUVs, the second-row seat slides forward in such a way that if it has a car seat on it, it's still easy to get into the third row. "We said, let's finally get it right where I don't have to move my kid out of the car seat to get my other kid into the back seat," Nguyen says. "We put our foot down, and put a push on engineering for that."

Women also want technology as much as men do, but it needs to be intuitive and easy to use. The company is continually working on designs that take the enormous amount of information available, and present it in formats that are accessible, affordable, and also minimize distraction. "It's the kiss of death to say that you're designing for women," she says. "If you meet their needs, you will capture the needs of everyone."

Seasons change — so should your tires

Winter driving conditions can be hazardous — from snow storms to black ice — so it's best to gear up with the proper tires, experts say. ISTOCK

Maximum control.

It's the quality of your tires that contributes the most to just how much traction your car really has

Car experts agree that when the seasons change — and the temperatures dip — drivers should also be thinking of an important switchover on their vehicles.

Despite motorists all across the country reminding themselves about replacing ice scrapers and snow brushes in their car trunks, there are still a large number of Canadians unsure of the benefits of winter tires for their vehicles.

The experts, however, concur — winter tires are highly recommended.

"This time of year serves as an annual checkpoint and reminder for the importance of having proper winter tires on your vehicle," says Ian MacDonald, director of marketing at autoTRADER.ca.

"Too many fender benders and accidents are preventable for want of proper tires. It's an investment that pays off in peace of mind — knowing your vehicle can perform better despite the conditions," he says, adding that winter tires are a must-have for a number of scientific reasons.

Specialized for the season

Winter tires are made from rubber that has been specially engineered to maintain its elasticity in colder weather — which means they'll cut through ice and snow, gripping the road much better than summer or even all season tires could ever hope to. Specialized tread also works to give drivers maximum control despite the weather.

Tech will only take you so far

While features that have become commonplace on many vehicles, such as Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), four-wheel drive and traction control, are designed to help keep your car under control, they don't necessarily help it get more grip. It's the quality of your tires that contributes the most to just how much traction your car really has, and winter tires give you the lion's share of it.

A strategic purchase

While the initial financial investment in winter tires may make you want to put it off (as much as $500, depending on the brand, including winter rims), swapping your winters for your all-seasons and back again as the weather changes means having to think less about needing new tires in general.

NEWS CANADA

Always be prepared

It's important to be prepared in case something goes wrong and that includes a well-equipped emergency kit. What items should you include?

- A cellphone (if you don't carry one)
- First aid kit
- A candle and matches
- Bottled water and snacks
- A blanket, gloves, and additional warm clothing
- Flashlight and batteries
- Tire gauge and jumper cables
- Small tool kit

Tricks and tips. How to winterize your driving and car for a safe start

Driving can be dangerous during harsh winter weather if your vehicle isn't properly prepared. Start off the season right by winterizing your vehicle before taking to the road. To make sure you and your vehicle are ready for the season, Goodyear Canada has some useful tips to get you to your destination safely:

Service your vehicle
Make sure you have enough antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid. For a correct amount of antifreeze to withstand the winter temperatures, a 50/50 mix of antifreeze to water is sufficient. You can go through windshield wiper fluid in one snowstorm, so be sure to completely fill your vehicle's reservoir before the first snowfall hits.

Practice makes perfect
It's important to be alert when driving on snow-covered roadways because winter hazards make it difficult to handle your vehicle. In order to know how your vehicle performs in the winter weather, it may be helpful to practise driving techniques in an empty, open parking lot.

Inflation is essential
Keep in mind that when the temperature drops, the air pressure in your tires also decreases. Proper tire inflation is essential for vehicle stability, fuel efficiency, optimum steering, grip, wear and load-carrying capabilities.

Easy does it
Remember to stay extra cautious of other vehicles when driving. Make sure you leave at least three times more space than usual between your vehicle and the one in front of you. NEWS CANADA

Proper tire inflation is essential for vehicle stability, fuel efficiency, optimum steering, grip, wear and load-carrying capabilities. ISTOCK

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All three already come with heated front seats, heated mirrors and windshield wiper de-icer, but the winter-ready trim package will include things like remote starters, winter floor mats, heated rear seats and steering wheels, and winter tires. The exact package depends on the type of vehicle purchased. Visit kia.ca for full details.

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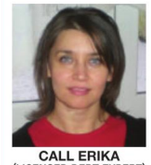

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Having given your word about something, you can't break it because circumstances have changed and it suits you to change too. If you do, your reputation will head south fast, and so will your finances.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Listen to your instincts today and do what they tell you. If you ignore them and lose out in some way, you will only have yourself to blame. Your inner eye sees everything.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You're not the type to follow the same path as everyone. You like to blaze a trail and that is exactly what you should do today. Some will criticize you — mainly out of envy.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you must work almost non-stop, at least make sure you are working for yourself and not for people who benefit from your efforts. Better still, find a way to cut back on what you are doing. Put your wellbeing first.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You cannot change the world but you can change your own attitude — and that will be a thousand times more productive. Your ultimate responsibility is to yourself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You want to be on the move and very soon you will be. Today, though, spend time checking and rechecking your plans, just in case you have missed something.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do what your instincts tell you is right, even if it means you stir up powerful forces that see you as a threat. And don't listen to those who say the old ways are the best. What they mean is they benefit from them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want to protect your privacy but you also want to get out in the world. Somehow you will have to reconcile these two driving principles. Learn to compartmentalize your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You know exactly what you want to be doing and exactly what you ought to be doing and for once the two coincide perfectly. Both at home and at work life will be easy today.

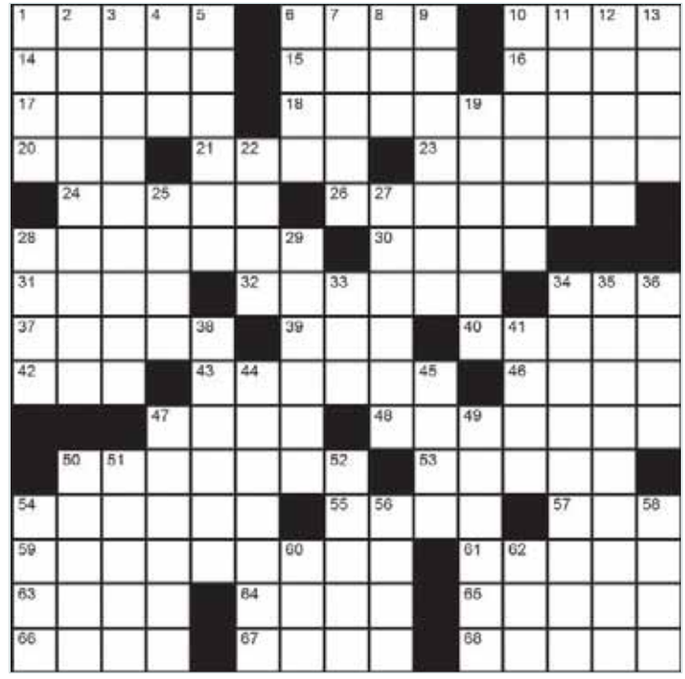
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be impatient to start something new but the planets suggest that for best results you should leave it a day or two. The approaching eclipse will focus your mind and your energy with laser-like intensity.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What can you do to make the world a better place? Be a better person. That may sound a bit too simple but really it's the only viable course of action if you want to make a deep and lasting difference.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to go public with news that makes a rival look bad but don't be too hasty. Do they know things about you that you don't want revealed? If so, think again. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

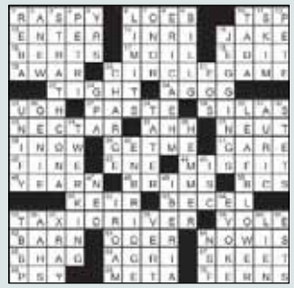
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Mischief manufacturization
6. Madrid 'water'
10. Pepper __
14. Pantheon of Norse gods
15. "..._ _ digress..."
16. 'Hypn' suffix
17. Ms. Stanger of "The Millionaire Matchmaker"
18. Labatt Blue, for one: 2 wds.
20. Coming-in-plane, e.g.
21. Potato chip brand
23. Skillfully sidesteps something
24. Sushi shapes
26. Operating Room professional
28. Artist of 1905 painting Woman with a Hat
30. Subatomic particle
31. Burden
32. Scarf-like garment
34. Detectives, for short
37. Monsters
39. Law: French
40. "Home __" (1990)
42. TKO caller
43. Uses Twitter
46. Sky bear
47. Yes
48. Saskatchewan city since 1882
50. Judicious
53. Songbook standard: "You __ __ Sunshine"
54. Suspect stories
55. Maori warriors' traditional war cry/dance
57. Traditional tree
59. Where to deposit a vote: 2 wds.
61. Q."It's half past __ __ my watch, what does yours say?" A."Three o'clock, it must be fast."
63. Gawk at
64. Highway division
65. Singer Ms. Gorme (b.1928 - d.2013)
66. Towards BC
67. Energy units
68. CBC's "Republic of __"

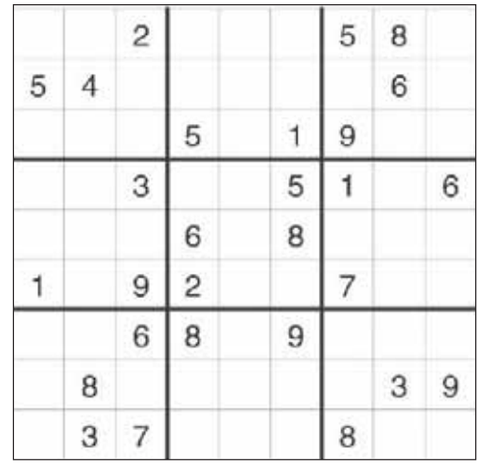
Down
1. "__ Don't Preach" by Madonna
2. Change around
3. Sports stadium surface, sometimes
4. Puny parasite
5. Shrimp-like creatures
6. Donna Mills' role on "Knots Landing"
7. Jeans company
8. Sport-__ (All-purpose vehicle)
9. City near Calgary
10. 'See History Unfold' city in southern Manitoba
11. "Give __ _ __." (Try)
12. Fabric fabricated from flax fibres
13. Flat-screen TVs, e.g.
19. Capital of Colombia
22. Abbreviated aide
25. Ms. Watier of cosmetics
27. Haughty
28. The Tragedy of Othello, the __ of Venice (Shakespeare tragedy)
29. "Don't Walk Away __" by Sam Roberts
33. The Raven poet's surname
34. 'City of the Arts', part of Metro Vancouver: 2 wds.
35. How some canned sardines are packed: 3 wds.
36. Sitcom star Mr. Hayes
38. Painter's abode
41. Gospel scribe
44. Do like Hulk Hogan
45. Drench
47. Rent out your apartment
49. _-__ movie
50. Beach: French
51. Streamlets
52. "__ Song" by Sisqo
54. "Take _ __" by Madonna
56. Cans
58. Leg point
60. Prevent
62. Cheyenne's li'l state

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	9	3	4	1	8	7	2
4	3	8	9	7	2	6	5	1
7	2	1	6	8	5	3	9	4
3	9	5	4	1	7	2	6	8
2	8	6	5	9	3	4	1	7
1	4	7	8	2	6	9	3	5
9	5	2	7	3	8	1	4	6
8	7	3	1	6	4	5	2	9
6	1	4	2	5	9	7	8	3

Today
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Variable

Thursday
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Rain
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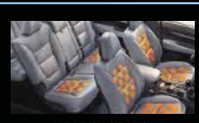
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